Manitoba Conservation

Annual Report 2005-2006

Manitoba

Conservation Manitoba

Rapport annuel 2005-2006

Manitoba

2007-01427/

MINISTER OF CONSERVATION

Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA
R3C 0V8

His Honour the Honourable John Harvard, P.C., O.M.
Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba
Room 235 Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 0V8

Your Honour:

I am pleased to present you with the Annual Report of the Manitoba Department of Conservation for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2006.

This Report details the Department's many accomplishments and activities as we fulfill our mandate of protecting the environment while sustaining and conserving the abundant natural resources we enjoy as Manitobans.

The Department is working hard to serve Manitobans and visitors in the delivery of its programs and services. By working together with and responding to the needs of the public we can ensure that we meet the challenges and opportunities of sustainability together.

In this year's Annual Report, the Department has provided detailed information regarding the continued implementation of the requirements of The *Sustainable Development Act* both within the Department itself and across government. By providing this information to the public we are assuring their participation in this important exercise to make government more sustainable in its activities.

The staff of Manitoba Conservation are dedicated to providing effective service and I hope the detailed information contained in this Annual Report sheds some light on the many important activities that take place on a yearly basis around the Province.

Respectfully submitted,

Stan Struthers
Minister of Conservation

Manitoba

Deputy Minister of Conservation

Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba CANADA
R3C 0V8

The Honourable Stan Struthers
Minister of Conservation
330 Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 0V8

Dear Minister:

I am pleased to provide the Annual Report of Manitoba Conservation for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 2006.

This past year has seen the Department continue to emphasize sustainability and conservation of Manitoba's environment and natural resources through the programs and services that it provides. Manitoba Conservation is committed to the delivery of these programs and services in an efficient and effective manner. Highlighted below are some of the activities undertaken by the Department during the past year:

- In the spring of 2004, an initiative was introduced to make 1,000 cottage lots accessible to Manitobans through sale or lease using a public draw for the available lots. To date Manitoba has held three public draws for 1,033 lots (410 new), for which we have received 3,931 applications. This initiative will increase opportunities for Manitobans and their families to enjoy the beauty of Manitoba's outdoors while positively contributing to Manitoba's tourism industry.

- Although the summer of 2004 was marked by record-breaking low temperatures and high rainfall amounts, an average visitor season was experienced in provincial parks.

- As part of the Provincial Camping Initiative, improvements completed over the past season include the electrification of campsites at Stephenfield, Watchorn, New Nutimik, Paint Lake, Hecla and Blue Lake. In addition to the electrification, water service was also installed on many sites at Stephenfield and Hecla and expanded regulations have been introduced to ensure all park users can expect a safe and peaceful provincial park experience.

- In 2005, the Department strengthened eviction regulations for incidents involving rowdyism or disturbances. Park staff may ban offenders from provincial parks for up to 21 days (from a previous maximum of 72 hours). In addition, a ban of up to one year may be imposed in the event of a more serious or repeat offence. Tougher fines

are also in place allowing individuals to be fined up to $557 for causing a disturbance or returning to any provincial park while under an eviction order.

- The Department supported the East-side (WNO) First Nation Council and negotiated a memorandum of understanding with the WNO first nations as well as participated in various co-management initiatives with aboriginal communities, particularly West Region Tribal Council and Opaskwayak First Nation.

- Participated in the final year of a two-year program, "Operation CleanFarm", to collect and safely dispose of obsolete or unwanted agricultural pesticides. The two-year program resulted in the collection of over 92,000 kgs of old chemicals from farms.

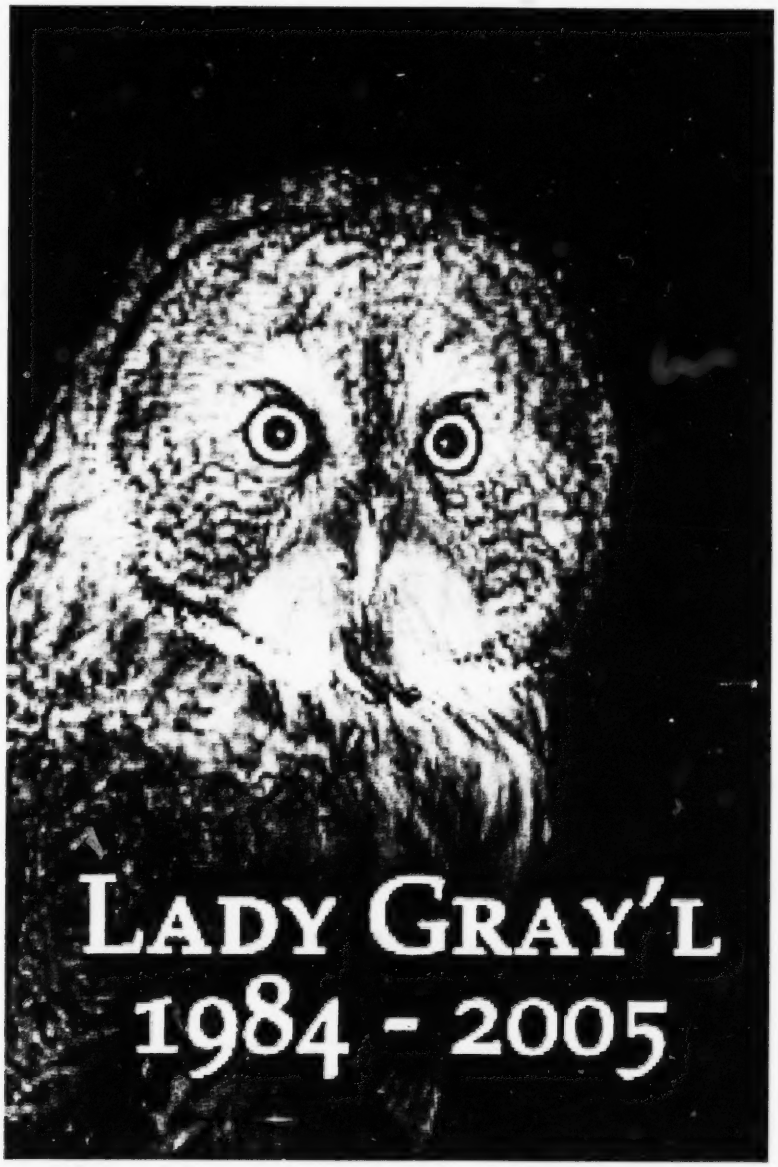
- Continued to support programs that protect species of plants, birds and wildlife so that they are there for the enjoyment of future generations. Protected species included the endangered plant, the western silvery aster; the piping plover shorebird and the polar bear.

Enclosed please find detailed information on the Department's operations for the 2004/05 fiscal year.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Cook
Deputy Minister

This Annual Report is dedicated to the memory of Lady Gray'l, a Great Gray Owl that together with retired provincial ecologist Dr. Robert W. Nero, served to educate thousands about conservation. The Great Gray Owl was selected as Manitoba's official bird emblem in 1987. Sadly, Lady Gray'l died of natural causes on October 13, 2005, at 21½ years old. The Lady Gray'l Fund has been established in her memory and to support research on conservation of owls and other Manitoba wildlife.



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MANITOBA CONSERVATION
ORGANIZATION CHART
AS OF MARCH 31, 2006

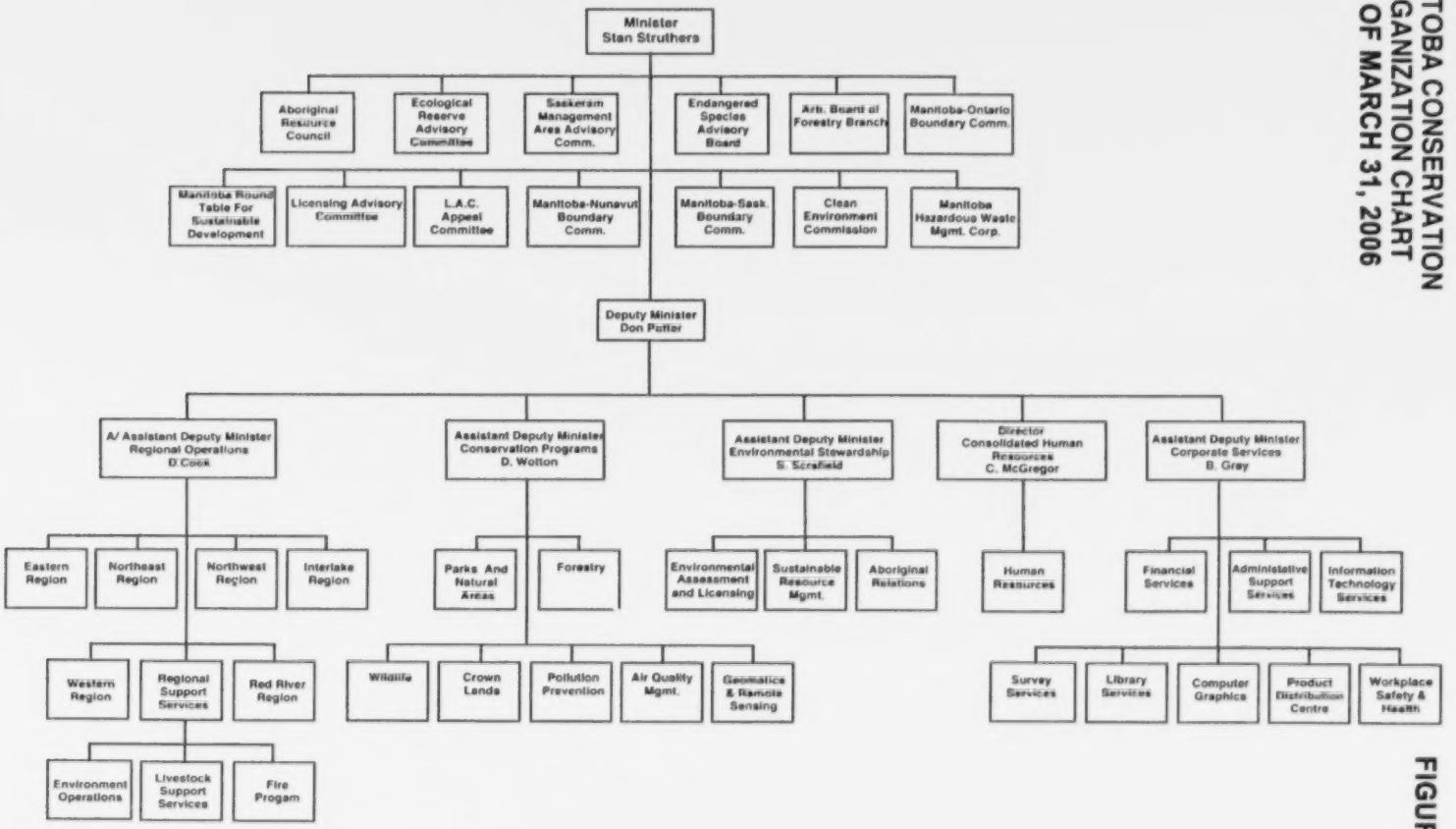


FIGURE 1

ORGANIGRAMME EN VIGUEUR LE 31 MARS, 2006

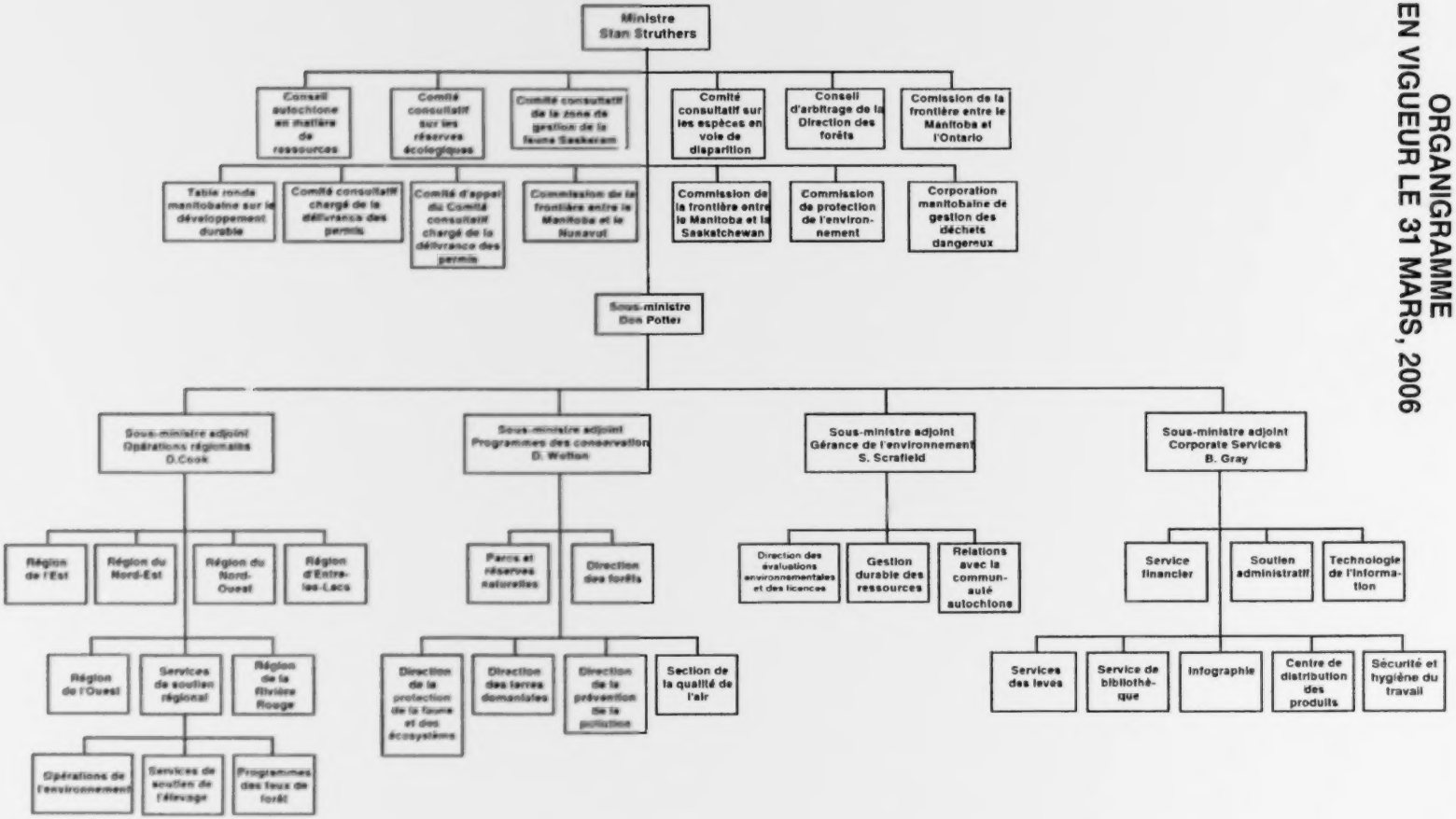

Ministre
Stan Struthers
Conseil autochtone en matière de ressources
Comité consultatif sur les réserves écologiques
Comité consultatif de la zone de gestion de la faune Saskeram
Comité consultatif sur les espèces en voie de disparition
Conseil d'arbitrage de la Direction des forêts
Comission de la frontière entre le Manitoba et l'Ontario
Table ronde manitobaine sur le développement durable
Comité consultatif chargé de la délivrance des permis
Comité d'appel du Comité consultatif chargé de la délivrance des permis
Commission de la frontière entre le Manitoba et le Nunavut
Commission de la frontière entre le Manitoba et la Saskatchewan
Commission de protection de l'environnement
Corporation manitobaine de gestion des déchets dangereux
Sous-ministre
Don Potter
Sous-ministre adjoint
Opérations régionales
D.Cook
Sous-ministre adjoint
Programmes des conservation
D. Wotton
Sous-ministre adjoint
Gérance de l'environnement
S. Scrafield
Sous-ministre adjoint
Corporate Services
B. Gray
Région de l'Est
Région du Nord-Est
Région du Nord-Ouest
Région d'Entre-les-Lacs
Parcs et réserves naturelles
Direction des forêts
Direction des évaluations environnementales et des licences
Gestion durable des ressources
Relations avec la communauté autochtone
Service financier
Soutien administratif
Technologie de l'information
Région de l'Ouest
Services de soutien régional
Région de la rivière Rouge
Direction de la protection de la faune et des écosystèmes
Direction des terres domaniales
Direction de la prévention de la pollution
Section de la qualité de l'air
Services des levés
Service de bibliothèque
Infographie
Centre de distribution des produits
Sécurité et hygiène du travail
Opérations de l'environnement
Services de soutien de l'élevage
Programmes des feux de forêt

FIGURE 2

INTRODUCTION

The information contained in this Annual Report for Manitoba Conservation, 2005-06 provides insight into the many and various activities undertaken by the Department over the past fiscal year.

Working co-operatively with the public, Manitoba Conservation manages and protects our rich and diverse natural resources by striking a balance between the needs of the environment and the needs and demands of Manitobans.

Through the integrated management of these resources, the Department is the lead agency responsible for protecting unique and special natural areas, and providing outdoor recreational opportunities for Manitobans and visitors to the Province. This includes providing cottaging opportunities on Crown Land in and outside provincial parks.

The Department is also a major contributor to the economic development and well-being of the Province, particularly at the community or regional level, through resource-based harvesting operations which it supports and through cooperation with other departments in supporting their efforts in such areas as agriculture, fisheries and tourism. Providing for basic resource needs for subsistence users, and protecting people, property and resource values from wildfires and the adverse effects of other natural occurrences are the other major roles of the Department.

The Department is responsible for the administration and enforcement of legislation and regulations pertaining to natural resources, environment and public health; licensing development activities; administration of waste reduction and pollution prevention activities and monitoring of environmental quality.

HIGHLIGHTS

Cottage Lots Initiative

- As part of a Government initiative to offer 1,000 new cottage lots to Manitobans, in 2005/06 two public draws were held for 1,045 cottage lots (including 477 new lots). A total of 2,422 cottage lot applications were received.
- Since the program's inception in 2004, Manitoba has offered 629 new cottage lots; 61 lots for lease in Provincial Parks, and 568 lots for sale on Crown Lands.
- To date Manitoba has sold/leased over 55% of all lots offered.
- The program generated over $4.9 million in revenue and has created long-term impacts including local economic benefits related to taxes, construction and purchases.

Aboriginal Relations

- The Branch served as Provincial negotiator for the province for the East Side of Lake Winnipeg Planning Initiative now named the Wabonong Nakaygum Okimawin (WNO) planning initiative.
- In consultation with Elders (Cree, Dakota and Ojibway), the Branch continued to refine the existing policy for Disposition of Dead Wild Animals to recognize the importance of wildlife including birds of prey and their disposition for traditional purposes by First Nations people.
- The Branch circulated and promoted a joint education video production with First Nation hunters and the Manitoba Wildlife Federation, entitled *Hunter and Firearm Safety*. The Branch also circulated and promoted the brochure. *Fishing, Hunting and Trapping: The Rights and Responsibilities of First Nation Peoples*.
- The Branch organized and promoted a highly successful National Conference in Winnipeg concerning the involvement of Aboriginal People in Natural Resource Management.

Environmental Programs

- The Manitoba Phosphorus Expert Committee (MPEC) report, which included recommendations on regulating manure sources of phosphorus, was completed and released in January, 2006.
- A formal public consultation process on regulating phosphorus was undertaken jointly with the Departments of Water Stewardship, Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade, and Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives during February and March, 2006.
- The department researched and complied a list of sites for the Environmental Liabilities Checklist which is required to establish an amount for reporting of this financial liability for the first time in 2005/06.
- The department produced and distributed A Homeowner's Manual: A guide to the installation, use and care of onsite wastewater management systems.

Regional Operations

- The 2005 fire season was well below average for fires and area burned with 248 fires burning 70,035.1 hectares (the 20-year average is 560 fires with 460,296 hectares burned). Lightning fires accounted for 138 fires burning 64,290.2 hectares with 110 human caused fires burning 5,544.9 hectares.
- The Emergency Response Program received over 3,500 calls to the Emergency Response 24-hour line. Of these, 611 were handled directly by the Department's Emergency Response Team and/or Regional personnel. The remainder, were not within the Department's mandate, and were directed to the appropriate outside agencies for action.

- The Special Investigation Unit concluded two undercover operations involving the illegal trade in bear parts within two separate areas of Manitoba.

- Approximately 272,000 vehicles entered Birds Hill Provincial Park while Grand Beach Provincial Park had over 157,000 vehicle entries.

- The Narcisse Snake Dens are a major wildlife viewing site in the Interlake with 50,000 visitors this year. New interpretive signage and improvements to the trails have added to the viewing experience.

- The Chitek Lake Wood Bison herd has expanded its range and animals are now found north and west of Chitek Lake. An aerial survey was flown in the area in February 2006. A total of 168 bison were observed, resulting in a population estimate of 200 animals.

- There were 71 of 120 lots sold at the Little Deer cottage subdivision and 19 of 20 lots sold at the St. Malo cottage subdivision.

- A forestry salvage operation after a severe windstorm in the Sandilands Provincial Forest resulted in approximately 75,000 cubic meters being harvested.

- The Eastern Manitoba Woodland Caribou Advisory Committee developed and implemented two "caribou" forest harvest designs in the winter range of the Owl Lake herd.

arks and Natural Areas/Protected Areas

In 2005, the Department strengthened eviction regulations for incidents involving rowdyism or disturbances. Park staff may ban offenders from provincial parks for up to 21 days (from a previous maximum of 72 hours). In addition, a ban of up to one year may be imposed in the event of a more serious or repeat offence. Tougher fines are also in place allowing individuals to be fined up to $557 for causing a disturbance or returning to any provincial park while under an eviction order.

Yurts were introduced to the provincial park system in July 2005 at New Nutimik campground. Public reception was very favourable, with yurt occupancy at 64% for the season.

As part of the Provincial Camping Initiative, 49 campsites were electrified and 28 basic sites were converted to electrical/water service sites at various campgrounds across Manitoba.

Contributing to Manitoba's protected areas, 3 ecological reserves were established: Brokenhead Wetland Ecological Reserve, Armit Meadows Ecological Reserve and Birch River Ecological Reserve

A Memorandum of Agreement was signed to recognize the Manitoba Naturalists Society's private lands, contributing to Manitoba's protected areas.

Manitoba committed to work with First Nations, Ontario and Canada on a UNESCO World Heritage site, 83,000 ha of boreal forest on the East Side of Lake Winnipeg.

orestry

In 2005/06, Conservation continued working with the First Nation Forestry Limited Partnership (FNFLP) toward a major hardwood products development in southern Manitoba. A lead proponent was selected, and Manitoba negotiated a Commitment Agreement with the company. The Sustainable Forestry Unit assisted FNFLP in several areas throughout the year, including meeting with First Nations communities. Negotiation of a Commitment Agreement with the successful proponent continued through 2006.

Significant progress was achieved in establishing long-term research plots (Manitoba's Ecosystem Monitoring Network-MEMN) across Manitoba to measure provincial, national and international reporting requirements related to forest sustainability, climate change and forest growth.

- Manitoba Conservation signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Swampy Cree Tribal Council (SCTC) committing timber resources to support economic opportunities for the SCTC through forestry developments. The agreement outlines Manitoba's intent to commit unallocated hardwood volumes to a project or projects that the First Nations with to pursue. The SCTC represents eight First Nations communities in northwest Manitoba.

- In the summer of 2005, University of Manitoba commenced a Dutch Elm Disease (DED) research project. The objectives of the project are to find an environmentally friendlier replacement for the pesticide currently used to control the elm bark beetle and to investigate the potential benefits to the DED management program of the early removal of diseased elm trees.

- The Tree Improvement Section, in conjunction with the Canadian Forest Service, are continuing work with the Hybrid Poplar Clonal Trials in the testing of 11 different hybrid clones. The Tree Improvement Section is also the delivery agency on 41 hectares of Forest 2020 Plantation Demonstration and Assessment initiative. The section also in cooperation with the Canadian Biomass Innovation Network, with the establishment of short-rotation willow and hybrid poplar plantations for bio energy.

Pollution Prevention

- The Sustainable Development Innovations Fund (SDIF) provided $3.75 million to support programs and projects that targeted development, implementation and promotion of environmental innovation and sustainable development. This included over $2.06 million for projects supported under the SDIF Open Category; $496,293 for waste reduction and pollution prevention initiatives under Waste Reduction and Pollution Prevention (WRAPP) Fund; and $196,661 for environment-related projects involving youth on a voluntary basis, under the Environmental Youth Corps (EYC) Program.

- Composting workshops were promoted in partnership with Resource Conservation Manitoba and The Composting Council of Canada, and the City of Winnipeg was supported with its backyard composter promotion.

- Six new Used Oil Collection Depots were established and public service was improved.

- Two additional Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection days were held in Winnipeg to accommodate the increased demand for service. The HHW program collected 559 tonnes of household hazardous wastes, up by 12% from 2004/05.

- Amendments to the *Ozone Depleting Substances Regulation* were passed in December 2005. The amendments established new permitting requirements and fees, ODS phase-out schedules for industry sectors and increased technician certification fees.

- Staff continued to work in partnership with the Manitoba Ozone Protection Industry Association (MOPIA) to analyze current practices and options to enhance recovery of ozone depleting substances from white goods disposed in Manitoba.

- Manitoba's product stewardship approach is shifting to a regulated steward responsibility model. A new Tire Stewardship Regulation under the Waste Reduction and Prevention (WRAP) Act was released for public comment.

Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection

- Population trends of various species in 2005:
  - Upland Game Birds - stable
  - White-tailed deer – increased
  - Black Bear – stable or increased
  - Moose – stable
  - Elk – decreased slightly (due in part to TB control program around Riding Mountain)
  - Caribou – stable or increased
  - Wolverine – stable or increased
  - Prairie ducks – increased
  - Geese – increasing annually

- Despite the weak U.S. dollar, the demand for non-resident alien hunting licences continued to be strong. Approximately 2,100 bear, 1,500 deer, 220 caribou, and 150 moose licences were purchased in 2005.

- Manitoba Conservation, in consultation with the municipalities around Winnipeg, developed a Near-Urban Wildlife Strategy to address human safety and property damage concerns, as well as to maintain and expand hunting opportunities in the near-urban area.

- The department continued its participation in the Action Plan for Bovine TB Management in Manitoba and increased activities for Chronic Wasting Disease.

- The expanded Problem Beaver Control Program, consisting of summer removal and winter subsidy components, was successfully implemented for the fifth consecutive year.

- A three-phased Manitoba *Bear Smart* initiative was developed for implementation in Spring 2006.

- Over 160,000 Canada geese staged inside the City of Winnipeg in the fall of 2005. A management strategy for urban geese is being considered to address the many concerns associated with this recent phenomenon, in conjunction with other responsible agencies such as Transport Canada, Environment Canada, Winnipeg Airport Authority and the City of Winnipeg.

- Lady Gray'l, a Great Gray Owl that together with retired provincial ecologist Dr. Robert W. Nero, served to educate thousands about conservation and was the centre of attention during Manitoba Heritage Day in May 2005. The Great Gray Owl was selected as Manitoba's official bird emblem in 1987. Sadly, Lady Gray'l died of natural causes on October 13, 2005, at 21½ years old. The Lady Gray'l Fund has been established in her memory and to support research on conservation of owls and other Manitoba wildlife.

Environmental Assessment Inspection and Licensing

- The Branch recommended revisions to the Classes of Development Regulation. The draft revisions were placed on the public registries for review and comment..

- The Canada/Manitoba Agreement on Environmental Assessment and Cooperation expired in May, 2005. The document was reviewed internally and a revised version placed on the public registries for review and comment. No significant concerns were raised.

- The program to implement the Water and Wastewater Facility Operators Regulation is operational. The Branch was very active in attending public meetings, making presentations to stakeholders, facilitating exams, setting up a records management system, and reviewing applications.

- Licences were issued to the City of Winnipeg for its North End and South End wastewater treatment plants.

- The environmental review and consultation processes continued with respect to the proposed Wuskwatim projects. Issuance of Environment Act licences for the projects is anticipated in fiscal year 2006/07.

- Environmental assessment activities concluded for the expansion of the Red River Floodway. An Environment Act Licence was issued for the project on July 8, 2005. An appeal was filed and is under review.

- An Environment Act Licence was issued for the Pembina Hills Wind Farm. Pembina Hills is the second wind farm in Manitoba located near St. Leon on the Pembina Hills escarpment. Environment Act licence applications were also filed for the Killarney and Dacotah wind energy projects.

Renewal

The Public Health Inspector Bursary Program was implemented in response to the growing need to recruit and retain Public Health Inspectors in the Province.

Sustainable Resource Management

- The *2005 Provincial Sustainability Report* was released June 30, 2005.

- The Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development Scholarship for 2005/06 was awarded to two Manitoba students. A sum of $4,000 was awarded to Paul Mutch of the University of Manitoba on his graduate research on tall grass prairie habitat restoration around the city of Winnipeg, and $1,000 was awarded to Sarah Morriss for her undergraduate work at the University of Winnipeg on Sustainable Development Guidelines and Principles.

- The Branch completed the annual updating of the *Interdepartmental Operational Crown Land Plans Report* for 2006. About 765 land classification changes were made to the Crown land plans.

POINTS SAILLANTS

Initiative concernant les lotissements pour chalets

- En 2005, on a procédé à deux tirages au sort publics de 1 045 lots pour chalets (dont 477 nouveaux lots) dans le cadre d'une initiative gouvernementale qui vise à offrir 1 000 nouveaux lots pour chalets aux Manitobains et Manitobaines.

- Depuis la création du programme en 2004, le Manitoba a offert 629 nouveaux lots pour chalets, soit 61 lots loués à bail dans les parcs provinciaux et 568 lots vendus sur des terres domaniales.

- À ce jour, le Manitoba a vendu ou loué à bail plus de 55 % de tous les lots offerts.

- Chaque tirage offre de nouveaux lots ou des lots qui n'ont pas été remportés dans les tirages précédents.

- Le programme a généré plus de 4,9 millions de dollars en revenus et a créé des effets à long terme comme des avantages économiques en matière d'impôts fonciers pour les municipalités, des occasions d'emploi dans les domaines des professions du bâtiment et des achats de matériaux de construction.

Direction des relations avec les Autochtones

- La Direction a servi de négociateur au nom de la Province en ce qui concerne le plan d'aménagement local de la rive est du lac Winnipeg, maintenant appelé l'initiative d'aménagement territorial Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin.

- En collaboration avec les aînés (Cris, Dakotas et Ojibways), la Direction continue d'améliorer la politique existante en matière d'élimination des animaux sauvages morts afin de reconnaître l'importance de la faune, y compris les oiseaux de proies, et de leur élimination à des fins traditionnelles par les Premières nations.

- La Direction a distribué et fait la promotion d'un film éducatif, produit conjointement avec des chasseurs autochtones et la Manitoba Wildlife Federation, intitulé *Hunter and Firearm Safety* (sécurité des chasseurs et maniement des armes à feu). La Direction a aussi distribué et fait la promotion de la brochure : *Fishing, Hunting and trapping: The Rights and Responsibilities of First nation Peoples* (droits et responsabilités des Premières nations en matière de pêche, de chasse et de piégeage).

- La Direction a organisé et présenté une conférence nationale très réussie à Winnipeg au sujet de la participation des Autochtones à la gestion des ressources naturelles.

Programmes environnementaux

- Le rapport du comité d'experts chargé de l'étude du phosphore au Manitoba, dans lequel figure des recommandations sur la réglementation du phosphore provenant du lisier, a été achevé et publié en janvier 2006.

- Un processus formel de consultation publique sur la réglementation du phosphore a été entrepris de concert avec les ministères de la Gestion des ressources hydriques, des Affaires intergouvernementales et du Commerce, et de l'Agriculture, de l'Alimentation et des Initiatives rurales, pendant les mois de février et de mars 2006.

- Les responsables de la région ont fait des recherches et ont énuméré les sites à inclure dans la liste de vérification des passifs environnementaux. Cette liste est nécessaire afin d'établir le montant à communiquer au chapitre de ce passif financier, pour la première fois en 2005-2006.

- Le ministère a conçu et distribué un manuel du propriétaire. Il s'agit d'un guide pour l'installation, l'utilisation et l'entretien de systèmes de gestion autonomes d'eaux résiduaires.

Opérations régionales

- La saison des feux 2005 se situe bien en dessous de la moyenne en ce qui concerne le nombre d'incendies et la superficie brûlée. 248 feux ont brûlé 70 035,1 hectares (la moyenne en 20 ans est de 560 incendies et de 460 296

hectares brûlés). De ces incendies, 138 ont été causés par la foudre, brûlant 64 290,2 hectares, et 110 ont été causés par des erreurs humaines, brûlant 5 544,9 hectares.

- Le Programme de prévention des incendies et d'intervention d'urgence a reçu plus de 3 500 appels sur sa ligne d'intervention d'urgence 24 h sur 24. Parmi ceux-ci, 611 ont été traités directement par l'Équipe d'intervention d'urgence du ministère ou par le personnel régional. Les autres appels reçus n'entraient pas dans le mandat du ministère et ont été acheminés vers les organismes extérieurs appropriés.

- La Section des enquêtes spéciales a mené deux opérations secrètes portant sur le commerce illégal de certaines parties d'ours dans deux régions distinctes du Manitoba.

- Environ 272 000 véhicules sont entrés dans le parc provincial de Birds Hill et plus de 157 000 véhicules dans le parc provincial de Grand Beach.

- Les nids de couleuvres de Narcisse sont un lieu important d'observation de la faune de la région d'Entre-les-Lacs, ayant accueilli 50 000 visiteurs cette année. De nouveaux panneaux d'interprétation et des améliorations aux sentiers ajoutent au plaisir de cette expérience d'observation.

- Le troupeau de bisons des bois du lac Chitek a agrandi son territoire, des bisons se trouvant maintenant au nord et à l'ouest du lac Chitek. À la suite d'un relevé aérien effectué dans la région en février 2006, on a observé la présence de 168 bisons. En se fondant sur ce nombre, on estime à 200 la population de bisons.

- 71 des 120 lots pour chalets du lotissement Little Deer et 19 des 20 lots du lotissement Saint-Malo ont été vendus. 71 nouveaux lots à Mill Point Beaches, directement au Nord de Riverton, feront l'objet du prochain tirage public prévu à cet effet.

- Une opération de récupération du bois à la suite d'une importante tempête de vent dans la forêt provinciale de Sandilands s'est soldée par une coupe de bois d'environ 75 000 mètres cubes.

- Une demande de propositions a été faite pour la construction d'installations de traitement du bois dur en partenariat avec les Premières nations des régions de l'Est et d'Entre-les-Lacs.

- Le comité consultatif sur le caribou des bois de l'est du Manitoba a conçu et développé deux régions « adaptées aux caribous » dans l'aire d'hivernage du troupeau du lac Owl.

Parcs, réserves naturelles et zones protégées

- En 2005, le ministère a renforcé les règlements en matière d'expulsion en ce qui a trait aux incidents de chahut ou de désordre public. Dorénavant, les agents des parcs peuvent donner aux contrevenants un ordre d'interdiction d'entrer dans des parcs provinciaux pendant au moins 21 jours (le maximum était de 72 heures auparavant). De plus, dans les cas plus graves et dans les cas de récidive, le contrevenant en cause pourra recevoir une interdiction d'entrer dans des parcs provinciaux pour une période pouvant aller jusqu'à un an. Des amendes plus élevées sont aussi mises en place, permettant de condamner les contrevenants à des montants pouvant atteindre jusqu'à 557 $ pour avoir causé un désordre public ou pour être retournés dans un parc provincial alors qu'ils faisaient l'objet d'un ordre d'expulsion.

- Des yourtes ont été introduites dans le système de parcs provinciaux en juillet 2005, au terrain de camping Nutimik. La réception du public a été très favorable, le taux d'occupation des yourtes durant la saison ayant été de 64 %.

- Dans le cadre de l'initiative provinciale de développement des emplacements de camping, l'électricité a été installée dans 49 sites de camping et 28 sites de base ont été convertis en sites offrant les services d'eau et d'électricité dans différents terrains de camping dans la province.

- Trois réserves écologiques ont été créées et ajoutées aux zones protégées du Manitoba : Brokenhead Wetland, Armit Meadows et Birch River.

- Un protocole d'accord a été signé en vue de reconnaître les terres privées de la Manitoba Naturalist Society en tant que zones protégées du Manitoba.

- Le Manitoba s'est engagé à travailler avec les Premières nations, l'Ontario et le Canada concernant la nomination d'un site du patrimoine mondial de l'UNESCO, soit 83 000 hectares de forêt boréale situés sur la rive est du lac Winnipeg.

Foresterie

- En 2005-2006, le ministère de la Conservation a continué de travailler avec la First Nation Forestry Limited Partnership (FNFLP) pour un important projet de développement de produits du bois de feuillus dans le sud du Manitoba. Un promoteur a été sélectionné pour diriger le projet et le Manitoba a négocié un accord avec l'entreprise choisie. La Section de la foresterie durable a aidé la FNFLP dans plusieurs secteurs d'activités au cours de l'année, y compris une rencontre avec les communautés des Premières nations. Les négociations en vue d'un accord avec le promoteur sélectionné se sont poursuivies au cours de l'année 2006.

- Dans un protocole d'entente signé avec le Swampy Cree Tribal Council (SCTC), Conservation Manitoba soutient les possibilités économiques du SCTC par l'entremise de son développement forestier en lui affectant des ressources forestières. L'entente indique que le Manitoba a l'intention de remettre aux Premières nations des quantités de bois dur non attribuées afin qu'elles entreprennent les projets de leur choix. Le SCTC représente huit collectivités des Premières nations dans le nord-ouest du Manitoba.

- L'Université du Manitoba a amorcé un projet de recherche sur la graphiose. Les objectifs de ce projet sont de trouver un remplacement plus écologique au pesticide actuellement utilisé pour contrôler le scolyte de l'orme, et d'examiner si l'élimination précoce des arbres atteints pourrait apporter des avantages au programme de gestion de la graphiose.

- La Section de l'amélioration des arbres, en conjonction avec le Service canadien des forêts, poursuit les travaux de testage de clones de peupliers hybrides en procédant à l'analyse de 11 clones hybrides différents. La Division agit aussi en tant qu'organisme d'exécution de 41 hectares dans le cadre du programme Forêt 2020 pour l'évaluation et la démonstration de plantations. De plus, la Division collabore avec le Réseau canadien de l'innovation dans la biomasse pour l'établissement de plantations à révolution courte de saules et de peupliers à des fins bioénergétiques.

- On note des progrès considérables dans l'établissement de parcelles de recherche à long terme (réseau de contrôle de l'écosystème du Manitoba) dans l'ensemble de la province. Celles-ci ont pour but de recueillir les données de contrôle liées aux écosystème nécessaires pour satisfaire aux exigences provinciales, nationales et internationales en matière de communication de données sur la durabilité des forêts, les changements climatiques et l'accroissement forestier.

Prévention de la pollution

- Le Fonds des innovations de développement durable (FIDD) a versé 3,75 millions de dollars afin d'appuyer des programmes et des projets qui visaient le développement, la mise en œuvre et la promotion de l'innovation environnementale et du développement durable. Le gros des subventions a été réparti comme suit : plus de 2,06 millions de dollars pour des projets présentés dans la catégorie domaines prioritaires du FIDD, 496 293 dollars pour des initiatives dans le cadre du Fonds pour la réduction du volume des déchets et la prévention de la pollution, et 196 661 dollars pour des projets d'environnement auxquels ont participé de jeunes bénévoles dans le cadre du programme de la Brigade des jeunes environnementalistes.

- On a fait la promotion d'ateliers sur le compostage en partenariat avec Resource Conservation Manitoba et le Conseil canadien du compostage, et la Ville de Winnipeg a reçu un appui pour sa promotion du composteur domestique.

- Six nouveaux dépôts de récupération d'huile usagée ont été créés et le service au public a été amélioré.

- Deux journées supplémentaires de collecte des déchets ménagers dangereux ont eu lieu à Winnipeg afin de satisfaire à la demande croissante pour ce service. Le programme de collecte a ramassé 559 tonnes de déchets ménagers dangereux, soit 12 % de plus qu'en 2004-2005.

- Le *Règlement modifiant le Règlement sur les substances appauvrissant la couche d'ozone* a été adopté en décembre 2005. Les modifications apportées mettent en place de nouvelles exigences pour l'obtention d'un permis, de nouveaux droits, un calendrier pour l'élimination progressive des substances appauvrissant la couche d'ozone dans les secteurs industriels et une augmentation des frais de certification pour les techniciens.

- Le personnel a continué de travailler en partenariat avec la Manitoba Ozone Protection Industry Association pour analyser les pratiques et les options courantes dans le but d'améliorer la récupération des substances appauvrissant la couche d'ozone dans les produits blancs mis au rebut au Manitoba.

- L'approche de gestion des produits au Manitoba se transforme en un modèle réglementé de responsabilité pour les gestionnaires. Un nouveau *Règlement sur la gestion des pneus* pris en application de la *Loi sur la réduction du volume et de la production des déchets* a été publié à des fins de consultation publique.

Protection de la faune et des écosystèmes

- Tendances démographiques de différentes espèces en 2005 :
  - gibier à plume sédentaire : stable;
  - cerf de Virginie : à la hausse;
  - ours noir : stable ou à la hausse;
  - orignal : reste bas;
  - wapiti : faible diminution (en partie due au programme de lutte antituberculeuse aux environs du Mont-Riding);
  - caribou : stable ou à la hausse;
  - carcajou : stable ou à la hausse;
  - canard des Prairies : à la hausse;
  - oie : à la hausse chaque année.
- Malgré la faiblesse du dollar américain, les demandes de permis de chasse pour étrangers non résidents sont demeurées fortes. Environ 2 100 permis de chasse à l'ours, 1 500 permis de chasse au cerf, 220 permis de chasse au caribou et 150 permis de chasse à l'orignal ont été vendus en 2005.
- Conservation Manitoba, en consultation avec les municipalités autour de Winnipeg, a conçu une stratégie de contrôle de la faune en milieu périurbain pour répondre aux préoccupations concernant la sécurité humaine et les dommages aux biens, et pour maintenir et augmenter les possibilités de chasse dans les régions périurbaines.
- Le ministère a continué de participer au Plan d'action pour la gestion de la tuberculose bovine au Manitoba et a accru ses activités pour contrer la maladie du dépérissement chronique.
- Cette année était la neuvième année de la mise en place du Programme d'indemnisation des dommages causés au bétail par les prédateurs.
- Le programme élargi de contrôle des castors, consistant en des subventions pour le piégeage des animaux en été et en hiver, a été mis en œuvre avec succès pour la cinquième année de suite.
- Les pratiques et procédures révisées relatives au contrôle des ours noirs ont été approuvées par les cadres supérieurs du ministère.
- Plus de 160 000 bernaches du Canada ont fait étape dans la ville de Winnipeg à l'automne 2005. Le gouvernement, en collaboration avec d'autres organismes responsables comme Transports Canada, Environnement Canada, l'Administration aéroportuaire de Winnipeg et la Ville de Winnipeg, se penche actuellement sur une stratégie de gestion des bernaches en milieu urbain pour répondre aux nombreuses préoccupations liées à ce phénomène récent.
- Le Centre de données sur la conservation du Manitoba a été l'hôte de l'assemblée générale annuelle de NatureServe Canada en mai 2005. Les participants incluaient notamment des représentants de tous les centres de données sur la conservation du Canada, de NatureServe, de NatureServe Canada, de la Société canadienne pour la conservation de la nature et de cinq ministères fédéraux, faisant de cette assemblée la plus importante et la plus diverse de l'histoire de NatureServe Canada.
- Conservation Manitoba a dirigé la conception de la version préliminaire d'une stratégie nationale de rétablissement du platanthère blanchâtre de l'Ouest et a participé à l'achèvement d'une version préliminaire pour une stratégie nationale de rétablissement du cypripède blanc, deux espèces en voie de disparition. Les deux stratégies ont été publiées sur le site Web du registre public de la *Loi sur les espèces en péril* (www.sararegistry.gc.ca) en juin 2006.
- L'écologiste retraité du gouvernement provincial, M. Robert W. Nero, s'est servi de la chouette laponne Lady Gray'l pour instruire des milliers de personnes sur la conservation. Cette dernière a été le centre d'attention à l'occasion du Jour du patrimoine du Manitoba, en mai 2005. La chouette laponne a été choisie comme emblème aviaire officiel du Manitoba en 1987. Malheureusement, Lady Gray'l est décédée de causes naturelles à l'âge de 21 ans et

demi, le 13 octobre 2005. Le fonds Lady Gray'l a été créé à sa mémoire et vise à soutenir la recherche sur la conservation des chouettes et d'autres animaux de la faune manitobaine.

- Une équipe manitobaine pour le rétablissement du scinque des Prairies a été formée et a amorcé des travaux de conception d'ébauches pour un programme de rétablissement, un plan d'action, des lignes directrices de contrôle établies par les citoyens, des feuilles de renseignements et des lignes directrices sur la gestion de l'habitat. L'équipe a aussi cerné les priorités de recherche et les possibilités de sensibilisation pour 2006-2007.

Direction de la gestion durable des ressources

- Le *Rapport provincial de 2005 sur la durabilité au Manitoba* a été publié le 30 juin 2005.

- Les bourses d'étude de la Table ronde manitobaine sur le développement durable pour l'année 2005-2006 ont été attribuées à deux étudiants du Manitoba. Une somme de 4 000 $ a été accordée à Paul Mutch, de l'Université du Manitoba, qui, dans le cadre de son programme d'études supérieures, a fait des recherches sur la restauration des prairies à herbes hautes dans les environs de Winnipeg. Sarah Morris, qui étudie les principes et directives de développement durable dans le cadre de son programme d'études de premier cycle à l'Université de Winnipeg, a reçu une bourse de 1 000 $.

- Un protocole à l'accord entre les gouvernements des Premières nations situées dans la partie est de la région concernée par le projet d'aménagement territorial et la province du Manitoba.

- La Direction a terminé la mise à jour annuelle de l'*Interdepartmental Operational Crown Land Plans Report* de 2006. Environ 765 changements de classification des terres ont été apportés aux plans des terres domaniales.

- La Direction a introduit un document d'orientation quant à l'utilisation et à la distribution des terres domaniales pour la construction de centrales éoliennes dans le cadre de l'Initiative de développement énergétique de la province et de son engagement concernant la production de 1 000 mégawatts d'énergie électrique par l'entremise de l'énergie éolienne au cours de la prochaine décennie.

Direction des évaluations environnementales et des licences

- La Direction a recommandé qu'on apporte des modifications au *Règlement sur les diverses catégories d'exploitations*. La version préliminaire des révisions a été affichée sur les registres publics à des fins de révision et de commentaires. Les commentaires seront examinés en vue de faire adopter le règlement modifié au cours de l'exercice 2006-2007.

- L'accord en matière d'évaluation environnementale et de coopération entre le Canada et le Manitoba a pris fin en mai 2005. Le document a été révisé à l'interne et a été affiché sur les registres publics à des fins de révision et de commentaires. Aucune préoccupation importante n'a été exprimée. Le document sera signé au cours de l'exercice 2006-2007, avec seulement quelques modifications mineures de nature administrative par rapport à sa version originale publiée en mai 2000.

- Le programme d'exécution du *Règlement sur les exploitants d'installations de traitement des eaux* est opérationnel. Le personnel de la Direction a été extrêmement actif en assistant à des assemblées publiques, en faisant des présentations aux parties intéressées, en facilitant les examens, en mettant en place un système de gestion des dossiers et en examinant les demandes.

    - Des permis ont été délivrés à la Ville de Winnipeg pour ses installations de traitement des eaux usées dans les secteurs sud et nord de la ville.

- Les processus conjoints d'examen environnemental et de consultation aux termes de l'accord Canada-Manitoba en matière d'évaluation environnementale et de coopération se sont poursuivis en ce qui concerne les propositions de projets de Wuskwatim. La délivrance des licences pour les projets en vertu de la *Loi sur l'environnement* est prévue pour l'exercice 2006-2007.

- Les travaux d'évaluation environnementale pour le Projet d'agrandissement du canal de dérivation de la rivière Rouge sont terminés. Un processus d'évaluation environnementale conjoint a été mené avec des

organismes fédéraux dans le cadre de l'accord Canada-Manitoba en matière d'évaluation environnementale et de coopération. Une licence a été délivrée en vertu de la *Loi sur l'environnement* pour le projet le 8 juillet 2005. Un appel a été déposé et est actuellement à l'étude.

- Une licence a été délivrée en vertu de la *Loi sur l'environnement* pour la centrale éolienne de Pembina Hills. Il s'agit de la deuxième centrale éolienne au Manitoba située près de Saint-Léon sur l'escarpement de Pembina Hills. Des demandes pour des licences en vertu de la *Loi sur l'environnement* ont aussi été déposées pour les projets d'énergie éolienne de Killarney et de Dacotah.

ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

The Administration and Finance Division provides executive management of programs and management services, including financial, human resource, computer, and administrative support.

Minister's Salary

The Minister's Salary provides the Minister with additional compensation to which an individual appointed to Executive Council is entitled.

Table AF.1
12.1(a) Minister's Salary

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	29.7	1.00	29.4	0.3	
Total 12.1(a)	**29.7**	**1.00**	**29.4**	**0.3**	

Executive Support

This area comprises support staff in the Offices of the Minister and Deputy Minister of Conservation.

The purpose of Executive Support is to develop, implement and oversee policies and programs which are designed to attain, over the long term, the goals set out in the Department's role and mission statement, advise the Minister on matters relating to the Department, provide policy direction for departmental programs, co-ordinate departmental communications activities and initiatives, and provide administrative support for the Offices of the Minister and Deputy Minister.

Table AF.2
12.1(b) Executive Support

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	545.5	9.00	548.5	(3.0)	1
Other Expenditures	121.5		197.3	(75.8)	
Total 12.1(b)	**667.0**	**9.00**	**745.8**	**(78.8)**	

1. Under expenditure is due to a decrease in discretionary spending including travel.

Corporate Services

Corporate Services Division provides shared services between the departments of Conservation and Wate Stewardship including administrative, financial, workplace safety, health and risk management, equipment warehouse library and public information services and information technology services. Human Resource services are provide through a service shared with other departments.c

Administrative services include fleet vehicle coordination, office accommodation and parking administration, record management and coordination of departmental efforts at French language services and compliance with the Freedon of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

The Workplace, Safety, Health and Risk Management section provides leadership, direction and support to th departments and senior management on compliance with recognized standards in these areas through policies monitoring and training.

The Conservation and Environment Library supports access to print and electronic specialized information resource for Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Water Stewardship, Environment Canada in Winnipeg, the Canadian Council o Ministers of the Environment, and for the public. Interlibrary loans are coordinated with other Manitoba libraries an educational institutions. Current information related to the mandates of each partner organization is made available t staff and to the public.

The Departmental warehouse is the equipment/supply storage and mobilization point for branches and Fire Operation Centre. In emergencies, such as fire and flood, it becomes the logistical support base for all equipment. Disposition o fleet and Department owned vehicles was administered.

The following activities were carried out in 2005/06.

- 111 requests under ***The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*** were actioned in 2005.
- In 2005/06, the library responded to over 2,500 inquiries for information.
- The Department continues to implement its French Language Services Plan to reflect current operations and i keeping with the *Chartier Report* on French language services. Translation of documents and the Websit continues. The department continues to participate in the Bilingual Service Centres.

Table AF.3
12.1(c) Corporate Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,089.6	19.00	1,182.4	(92.8)	
Other Expenditures	1,271.8		1,147.5	124.3	1.
Total 12.1(c)	**2,361.4**	**19.00**	**2,329.9**	**31.5**	

1. Increase in Other Expenditures is due to legal costs.

Financial Services

Financial Planning and Review

Financial Planning and Review manages and maintains controls of the departmental expenditures and revenues for two departments, Manitoba Conservation and Manitoba Water Stewardship. This Section also has the responsibility of coordinating and preparing the departmental annual estimates and in-year forecasting and monitoring of expenditures, revenues and capital assets expenditures and revenue estimates. The Section controls and administers the departmental use of the province's integrated financial management system and also provides training in various financial processes of the departments.

Disbursements Management Section

The Disbursements Management section processed approximately 28,000 accounts on behalf of Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Water Stewardship, and the Pineland Forest Nursery. The section carried out regular audits on MasterCard activity in various regions. Included in the regular duties of staff was the administration of the Purchasing Card program on behalf of 550 (MasterCard) cardholders. Thirty-seven employee relocations occurred during the year and these transfer expenditures were tracked and processed by the section.

Licensing Section

Licensing Section managed a network of 817 private and 129 departmental licence vendors through which convenient access was provided to the public for angling, hunting, migratory waterfowl, park vehicle entry, trapping and various other licences and permits. For the 2005/06 fiscal year, total sales were 518,097 yielding a total revenue of $11,403,674.75. Vendor activity for the same period included 70 new appointments, 97 discontinuances, 14 suspensions, and 20 reinstatements. A total of 754 private vendors are in rural areas.

Draws for Manitoba residents are conducted each year to allocate hunting opportunities for areas of limited availability. A multi-year priority licence draw system was conducted, involving 7,911 applicants; 4,709 hunters were awarded licences.

Contract Management Section

During the 2005/06 fiscal year, the Contract Management Section administered over 213 new contracts for construction, engineering and environmental consulting and fee for service agreements for a total of $14,838,391.62. In addition the section handled 69 contracts carried over from previous years. The section also provided advice to program managers on contract technicalities, tendering policies, bid opening practices, insurance and bonding requirements. 76 new grants to organizations totalling $4,249.045.89 were issued and monitored.

Revenue Management Section

Revenue Management section is responsible for managing the collection, security, deposit and reporting of revenue for over 50 revenue streams for the departments of Conservation and Water Stewardship. The section also provides assistance with the delivery of various programs including the Cottage Lot Draw, Seasonal Camping and the Parks Reservation Service. The section's Winnipeg Cashier's Office handled 8,000 direct sales totaling $4,956,000 and processed over 23,453 remittances from customers and departmental field offices totaling $31,477,900. FineLine Solutions processed over 8,700 Conservation invoice payments totaling $4,671,400, allowing for prompt deposit of funds and electronic updating of client records. Payment options available to these clients included: in person at Conservation offices and most financial institutions, bank machine, on-line and telephone banking. Credit cards were accepted at 45 locations, of which 37 also accepted debit cards.

Public Information

The Public Information section is responsible for providing information to the public regarding the numerous programs delivered by the departments of Conservation and Water Stewardship. This service is provided in person, by telephone, Internet and mail. The section responded to the following requests for information and assistance:

- 45,790 direct telephone requests to the Information Officers
- 45,085 calls were received by the automated Public Information Line of which 8,937 where handled directly by the line.
- 75,500 in person requests
- 5,300 requests through the Internet
- 5,600 information packages mailed.

The Public Information section also supplied all regional and district offices with the majority of publications that are distributed by the departments and provided program assistance to branches such as scheduling tours of the Narcisse Snake Dens, accepting and recording Seasonal Camping and Cottage Lot Draw applications and funds.

Table AF.4
12.1(d) Financial Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,205.7	26.33	1,298.4	(92.7)	
Other Expenditures	369.5		383.3	(13.8)	
Total 12.1(d)	**1,575.2**	**26.33**	**1,681.7**	**(106.5)**	

Human Resource Services

Staffing

- Staffing activity included 23 competitive appointments, and 36 term extensions and recalls. Guidance and advice were provided on departmental (seasonal) employee staffing, which has been delegated to managers: there were 127 appointments to departmental employee positions. There were no selection appeals.
- Assistance was provided in the development and implementation of the Youth Employment (Green Team) Program which employed 312 youths in rural Manitoba.

Labour/Employee Relations

- Guidance and advice was provided to management on 211 labour relations issues, including appropriate discipline, and negotiating settlements to resolve issues before the formal grievance stage. There were 10 formal grievances.

Classification

- Classification activity included completion of 192 position classification reviews. There were 2 classification appeals. Review of the Environmental Officer Series was completed, including development of new classification specifications and evaluation of the 113 Environmental Officer positions in Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship.

Pay and Benefits

- Pay and benefits were processed for more than 2,100 staff.
- Guidance and advice was provided on pay administration issues.

Employment Equity

- Employment Equity continues to be a consideration in all staffing activities.
- Liaison with schools and organizations to promote careers within the department.

- Participation at a number of Career Fairs.

Renewal Initiatives

- The Public Health Inspector Bursary Program was implemented in response to the growing need to successfully recruit and retain Public Health Inspectors in the Province of Manitoba.

Table AF.5
Employment Equity Representation

Fiscal Year	Total		Male		Female		Aboriginal		Persons w. Disability		Visible Minority	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
2003-04	2411	100	1547	64.2	864	35.8	390	16.2	45	1.9	36	1.5
2004-05	2109	100	1315	62.4	794	37/6	395	18.7	39	1.8	23	1.1
2005-06	2133	100	1337	62.7	796	37.3	390	18.3	23	1.1	38	1.8

Table AF.6
12.1(e) Human Resource Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,055.6	19.00	1,055.3	0.3	
Other Expenditures	96.5		107.2	(10.7)	
Total 12.1(e)	**1,152.1**	**19.00**	**1,162.5**	**(10.4)**	

Information Technology Services

The Branch provides internal information technology service and expertise, including systems analysis, design, implementation, corporate database management, and development and management of a yearly department-wide information technology systems plan. The Branch develops and maintains the Manitoba Land Initiative (MLI) spatial data warehouse.

The following key activities were carried out in 2005/06.

- The IT Branch continued the development of a custom web site, for the Cottaging Program, to include cottage lot availability and draw information, applications, and interactive mapping of all the lots.

- The ITS Branch assisted in the development and deployment of a new Parks Reservation System (PRS) for online internet booking of campsites. The new system became operational in April. In addition, 12 campground offices had computers and satellite systems installed in order to provide local access in the campground offices to support customer check-ins and additional customer onsite bookings.

- Client testing and additional development on the ENFOR package is being conducted. ENFOR is a suite of tools designed to replace an out-dated enforcement/tracking and occurrence reporting system in regional offices. The system will be Intranet-based and available to over 200 Natural Resource Officers and regional staff.

- Work is continuing on the development of the web based internet map server in Manitoba to provide forest data for the National Forest Information System (NFIS). The NFIS server is being developed to provide an Internet Web-based system wherein the public can find and review databases on Canada's forests and environmental conditions. Information on forest management practices will include harvesting information,

reforestation, forest fires, and related biophysical and environmental indicators. Canadian provinces are currently negotiating a governance strategy for the programs future operation that may include utilization of the NFIS program for hosting other Federal/Provincial geospatial data sets.

- The Manitoba Land Initiative (MLI) data warehouse is available online to the general public via the Intranet. This repository is being significantly enhanced with new data sets and new user interfaces. The MLI warehouse contains all government geospatial GIS data and related databases and meta-data, with interactive mapping tools. The data warehouse now has over 8,500 registered users. A new interactive map server was configured to provide seamless access of data for viewing and product downloading. A new web interface was also developed in conjunction with the Federal Government Geo-Connections to provide for a meta data search capability of Manitoba data through their web portal.
- The ITS Branch continued development on additional Web pages to meet the needs of the public. Conservation now has over 15,000 active Web pages, managed by a Web Co-ordinator. Additional enhancements were also developed on the internal Intranet side.
- The ITS Branch worked with Parks Branch to research and develop a plan for the implementation of a new Parks District Service Fees process and business re-engineering.
- The ITS Branch is working with the Conservation Licensing Section and Energy, Science, and Technology in the development of an e-commerce solution to provide web based sales of various licence and permit offerings over the Internet for the general public.
- Central government has embarked on a significant information restructuring initiative in which all the IT technical services required to support business applications will be centrally provided through the new organization. It is proposed that the transition exercise will be completed by March 31/07.

Table AF.7
12.1(f) Information Technology Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,059.7	15.00	1,066.2	(6.5)	
Other Expenditures	88.6		94.3	(5.7)	
Total 12.1(f)	**1,148.3**	**15.00**	**1,160.5**	**(12.2)**	

Clean Environment Commission

Under ***The Environment Act***, The Clean Environment Commission (CEC) provides a mechanism through which the public can participate in environmental decision making. The Commission conducts public reviews and hearings into matters of environmental concern and provides advice and recommendations to the Minister. The Commission, while reporting directly to the Minister, is independent of the Department.

The Commission issues its own Annual Report with information on its mandate and operations. Copies can be obtained from the CEC at 305 – 155 Carlton Street, Winnipeg, MB R3C 3H8. The CEC can be contacted at 204-956-7091 or toll free at 1-800-597-3556 or by fax at 204-945-0090. The CEC's web site is www.cecmanitoba.ca.

Table AF.8
12.1(g) Clean Environment Commission

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	235.1	3.00	245.3	(10.2)	
Other Expenditures	135.8		340.2	(204.4)	1.
Total 12.1(g)	**370.9**	**3.00**	**585.5**	**(214.6)**	

1. Under expenditure is due to no Clean Environment Commission hearings called in 2005/06.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Computer Graphics

The unit provides Geographic Information System (GIS), graphic design and Computer Aided Design and Drafting (CAD) services to Manitoba Conservation and Manitoba Water Stewardship. The GIS component of Computer Graphics is responsible for providing expertise in the creation of spatial data, spatial data analyses, and preparation of customized geo-referenced maps. The Graphic Design component produces high-quality informational material required for supporting various programs, policies, and initiatives. Specialized CAD services include preparation of engineering plans for capital works and infrastructure maintenance projects.

The unit completed 189 requests for service.

The following key activities were carried out in 2005/06:

- Provided design, layout and illustration services to all programs areas through complete publication of several booklets and brochures in consultation with Communication Services Manitoba. Some of the documents that were designed and published are:
  - Homeowner's Manual for Onsite Wastewater Management Systems;
  - 2005 Anglers' Guide;
  - Urban Fishing Guide; and
  - A Place of Honour (Second Edition).
- Prepared display boards, posters and promotional and presentation material for example, Lake Winnipeg Flood Protection, Water Quality Management Zones, Red River Floodway Act, New Cottage Lot Development, Protected Areas Initiative displays and Bovine Tuberculosis Poster.
- Maintained and improved the Red River Flood Management System, a web-based decision support system, designed to improve the ability of emergency managers, flood fighters, and valley residents to respond to future flood events.
- Implemented the National Hydrology Model on Manitoba's 1:20000 spatial data. This required a large amount of editing to the existing data to get it into the correct format.
- Provided project management services for the Fisher River and Dunnotar LiDAR (Light Direction and Ranging) projects. The LiDAR data for Fisher River will be used for flood modeling and infrastructure improvement. The Dunnotar data will be used in a study of shoreline erosion and its impact on the local environment.
- Provided Geographic System Support to staff within Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship. This involved data creation, topology structuring and map production.
- Produced Water Quality Zone mapping.
- Assisted in the production of all summer, winter and seasonal-use maps for the new Parks Reservation System.
- Designed and produced signage and permits for Parks campgrounds.
- Designed various logos and other miscellaneous promotional material e.g. Spruce Wood Provincial Park Logo, Caribou Logo, Thin Ice warning sign, Park Interpreter Logo, Cards, stickers and magnets related to Dutch Elm Disease and various T-shirt designs.
- Continued to provide support to Manitoba Geographical Names Program, to honour war casualties.
- Updated Crown land classification codes for use by Bloc Planning Committee and field staff in various departments.

- Supported Water Stewardship, by preparing location plans for the production wells at various towns, farms and industrial operations. Also provided mapping services to support Drainage licensing. Prepared location maps for Environmental Approval Branch as part of newspaper advertisement for public hearings.

- Performed miscellaneous tasks such as the plotting of hydrology data, and mean monthly levels of Manitoba lakes. Designed report covers, charts and graphs for various publications.

- Supported Water Stewardship by preparing engineering plans for the maintenance and refurbishment of water control infrastructure e.g., Donfield Drain, Dewar Drain and Buffalo Drain.

- Prepared construction drawings for Yurts in Whiteshell and other provincial parks.

- Assisted Parks and Natural Areas Branch with the calculation of square footage of complex building plans and subsequent checking for compliance to the regulations for the purpose of issuing Site Plan Permits.

Table CS.1

12.2(a) Computer Graphics

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	476.2	10.00	518.7	(42.5)	
Other Expenditures	25.0		26.0	(1.0)	
Total 12.2(a)	**501.2**	**10.00**	**544.7**	**(43.5)**	

Survey Services

The Branch administers and enforces ***The Surveys Act*** (Part II) and *The Survey of Mining Claims Regulation*, approves Plans of Survey for disposition of land under ***The Crown Lands Act***, ***The Gas Pipe Line Act*** and *The Mineral Disposition and Mineral Lease Regulation* (***The Mines and Minerals Act***), represents Manitoba on matters related to provincial boundaries, provides survey services to other departments, and maintains the Manitoba Spatial Reference Network and Land Survey System. Public benefits include a secure process for conveyance and reservation of Crown land and rights therein, an expeditious survey service for acquisition and disposition of land, a survey system for determining property boundaries, and a geodetic survey network for spatial referencing of land-related information.

Land Survey System Program

The program restores survey monuments of the Provincial Land Survey system, an infrastructure for land ownership, to ensure a strong cadastral (property parcel) framework for land conveyance and economic activities. It restores survey monuments and maintains survey documents concerning provincial boundaries. The program provides instructions to Manitoba Land Surveyors on the survey of Crown lands, examines their survey returns, approves their plans of survey, and operates a Survey Information Centre. This centre maintains cadastral and geodetic survey information dating back to 1870 and provides such information to industry, government departments and agencies, and the general public.

The following key activities were carried out in 2005/06.

- The Branch placed 18 monuments in the township and parish systems of survey, issued 13 sets of survey instructions, examined 47 plans of survey, tentatively approved 46 plans of survey, approved 46 plans of survey, and responded to 218 information requests. Survey Services provided at no charge 224 marker posts to private land surveyors for the identification and protection of survey monuments of the township system.

Manitoba Spatial Reference Network Program

The program maintains a network of survey monuments whose positions (latitude, longitude and elevation) have been determined. Disciplines such as civil and geotechnical engineering, resource management, and legal surveying use this network to determine horizontal position and vertical elevation of natural and man-made features and related information. This is essential to ensure compatibility of all geomatics, navigation, and other spatial information and to permit seamless and economic exchange and merge of such information. The Manitoba Spatial Reference Network, which includes 181 primary and approximately 10,000 secondary control-survey stations, is integral to Canadian Spatial Reference System (CSRS), contributing to a reliable national infrastructure for referencing spatial information.

The following key activities were carried out in 2005/2006.

- The branch continued participation on the Canadian Geodetic Reference System Committee (CGRSC) of the Canadian Council on Geomatics. CGRSC is a federal-provincial working committee that is mandated to plan and coordinate the maintenance and improvement of the geodetic spatial reference system in Canada. The committee, amongst other activities, continued work on two major initiatives; i.e., the Canada-wide Differential GPS Service and Modernization of the Canadian Height Reference System.

  The Canada-wide Differential GPS Service is a satellite-based, real-time differential GPS service designed to provide reliable GPS positional corrections. The system provides a free nation-wide service that will benefit all GPS users by improving the standardization of spatial data collection and the positional accuracy of spatial information. For users with a CDGPS receiver, it provides sub-metre to two metre positional accuracy throughout the Canadian landmass. It is suitable for natural resource management, environmental monitoring, agriculture, marine, mineral exploration, facilities management, precision farming, resource management, GIS and mapping, and navigation applications. For more information, visit the CDGPS web-site at http://www.cdgps.com.

  Modernization of the Canadian Height Reference System is a long-term initiative that will establish a new geoid-based datum to eventually replace the Mean Sea Level datum for vertical referencing. The new datum, scheduled

for implementation by 2010, will offer numerous advantages over the current reference datum. It will be compatible with international standards, enable cost-savings through the use of Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) technologies such as the GPS, be accessible at any point in Canada, and will not be hindered by the deterioration of current benchmarks. In 2005/2006 CGRSC commissioned a consultant study under a Steering Committee comprised of members from Canada, Nova Scotia, Quebec, Manitoba and Alberta, which will (a) consult with stakeholders in federal, provincial and municipal governments, academia, and industry, (b) raise awareness of the proposed change, (c) determine user requirements for assistance in making the transition, (d) identify the financial impacts, (e) identify the legal implications, (f) identify risks and impediments and make recommendations, and (g) prepare a plan for the implementation of the new system. For more information, visit the Canadian Spatial Reference System website at http://www.geod.nrcan.gc.ca/hm/docs_e.php.

- Staff computed NAD'83 (North American Datum of 1983) horizontal coordinate values for all control-survey stations dating back to 1987.

- Staff initiated a project to re-observe and modestly expand the primary component of the Manitoba Spatial Reference Network as part of the on-going maintenance of this infrastructure.

Survey Services Program

The program provides legal and control surveys and cadastral (property parcel) mapping services under cost recovery to provincial government departments and agencies for the acquisition and disposition of land, construction and maintenance of public works, and spatial referencing of land-related features and information. Products and services include:

- Legal surveys of public roads, water control works and utility easements
- Legal surveys of land parcels and subdivisions (including the cottaging initiative)
- Retracement and restoration surveys of prior legal survey
- Topographic surveys and terrain elevation models
- Control surveys for topographic mapping and civil engineering projects
- Control surveys for property parcel mapping (also known as cadastral integration surveys)
- Cadastral (property parcel) mapping
- Property parcel dimensions, acreages and coordinates
- Administrative boundary plans
- Title plots and legal descriptions
- Structure location surveys and certificates
- Land transaction/conveyance documents

Major clients include the Lands Branch and Parks and Natural Areas Branch of Conservation, Transportation and Government Services (Construction and Maintenance Branch and Land Management Agency), Water Stewardship (Water Control Infrastructure Branch), Aboriginal and Northern Affairs (Agreements Management Branch and Local Government Development Division), Industry, Economic Development and Mines (Mines Branch and Petroleum Branch), and Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade (Community Planning Services Branch).

Survey Services achieved its 2005/06 cost-recovery and revenue objectives. Surveyors and survey technologists worked on 134 land survey, 15 control survey and 296 legal description projects.

The following key activities were carried out in 2005/06.

- Cottage subdivision surveys

- Retracement surveys of Provincial Trunk Highways, Public Roads, and the Canadian Pacific and Pine Falls Railways, at the Red River Floodway.

- Public Road and water control works and drainage surveys at numerous other locations.

- Administrative plans for Wildlife Management Areas, Ecological Reserves and Park Areas.

- Various survey services for municipal and First Nations.

Table CS.2
12.2(b) Survey Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,306.1	27.00	1,485.0	(178.9)	
Other Expenditures	389.8		445.9	(56.1)	
Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations	(1,572.1)		(1,570.7)	(1.4)	
Total 12.2(b)	**123.8**	**27.00**	**360.2**	**(236.4)**	

Distribution Centre

The Centre serves the public and government agencies with mapping and aerial photo products. Mapping products are sold across Canada. The market for these products is primarily the public; and outdoor recreational users throughout North America. Product lines are continually being improved and expanded to meet the needs of Map Sales clientele.

The following key activities were carried out in 2005/06.

- The production of a new product, "Freshwater Fish Poster", has been completed this fiscal year. This poster has been developed as a point of sale item that will be marketable across Canada and in the northern United States.
- Four new wildlife posters have been added to the products sold by Product Distribution. These posters depict the various species of wildlife found throughout North America and appeal to Product Distributions client base.
- Lake depth maps for lakes in Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta have been added to the existing line of angling maps available in Manitoba. The addition of these angling maps compliments and expands the sale of mapping products across Canada. Universal Transverse Mercator grids and coordinates are being added to the angling maps in order to make them more appealing for many clients who are now using Global Positioning System units.
- 26,970 maps were sold directly or through the 150 dealers in Manitoba, Ontario and the north central United States. Map product sales was down this year throughout Canada, however Map Sales maintained it's ranking of third largest distributor of Topographic maps in Canada.
- Air photo products are produced and sold to the general public and government agencies. The Air Photo Library houses the only historic picture of Manitoba's landscape dating back to the 1920's. These photos are purchased by resource planners, environmental agencies, land developers, mining companies, etc. The photomechanical lab was shut down this year due to remediation work that is required. The lab will never be brought back to its original darkroom status. Photo products will now be produced in an electronic environment, which involves scanning and printing.
- 4,215 aerial photo products were sold to customers in 2005/2006.

Sale of mapping products and the e-commerce site is promoted by advertising in Yellow Pages, *Anglers' Guide*, Travel Manitoba publications, Fishing magazines, and direct marketing to the public through consumer shows and dealer sales calls.

Table CS.3
12.2(c) Distribution Centre

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	341.1	7.00	317.4	23.7	
Other Expenditures	311.8		325.6	(13.8)	
Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations	(29.1)		(50.0)	20.9	
Total 12.2(c)	**623.8**	**7.00**	**593.0**	**30.8**	

REGIONAL OPERATIONS

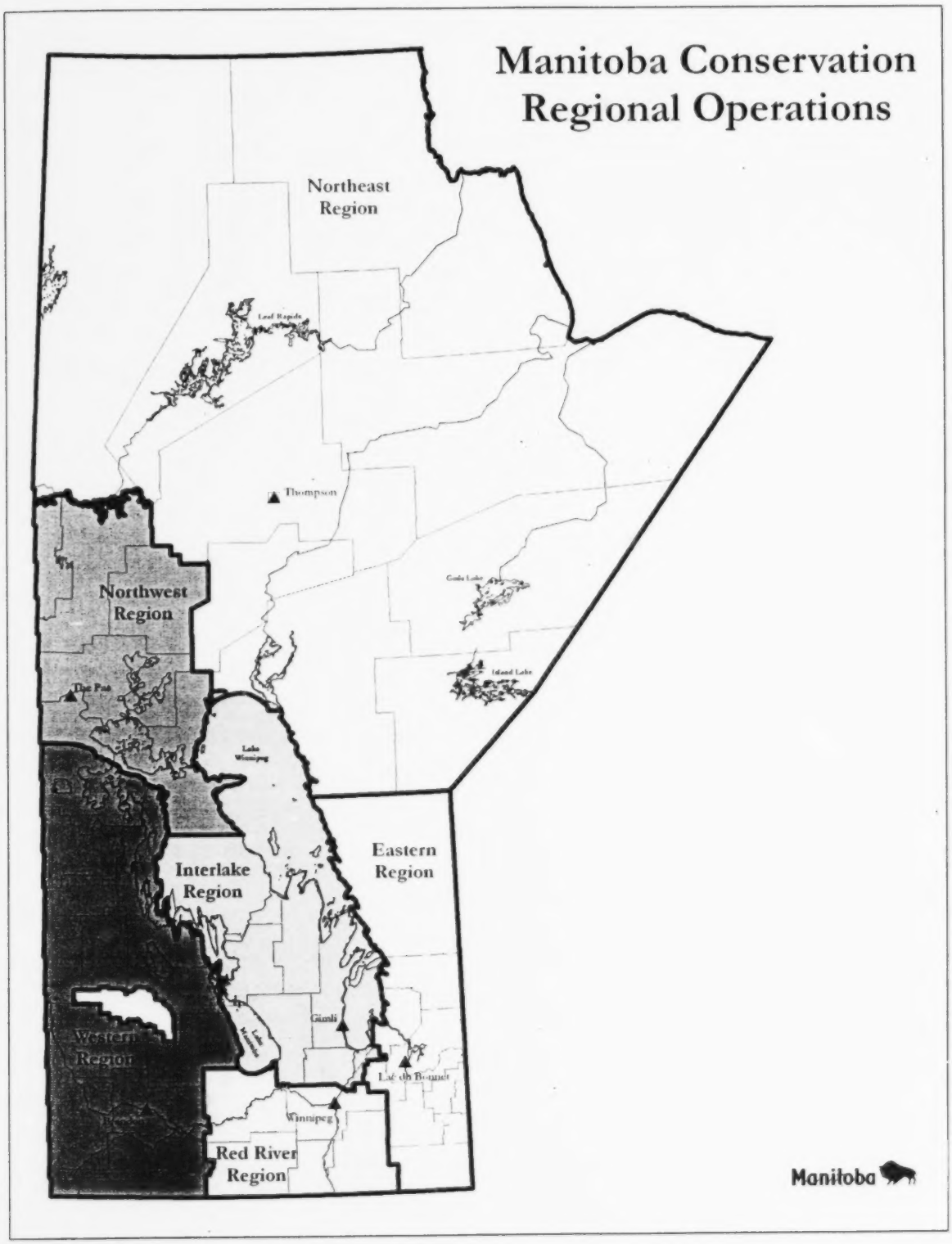
Departmental Programs and activities in Regional Operations Division are delivered through an integrated regional services delivery model in six Regions: Northwest Region, Northeast Region, Interlake Region, Eastern Region, Western Region, and Red River Region, and supported from Headquarters Operations in Winnipeg, which includes Regional Support Services, Fire Program, Environmental and Livestock Programs. Multi-disciplined full-time and seasonal staff working from 59 community-based district and regional offices as well as Headquarters offices in Winnipeg carry out the work.

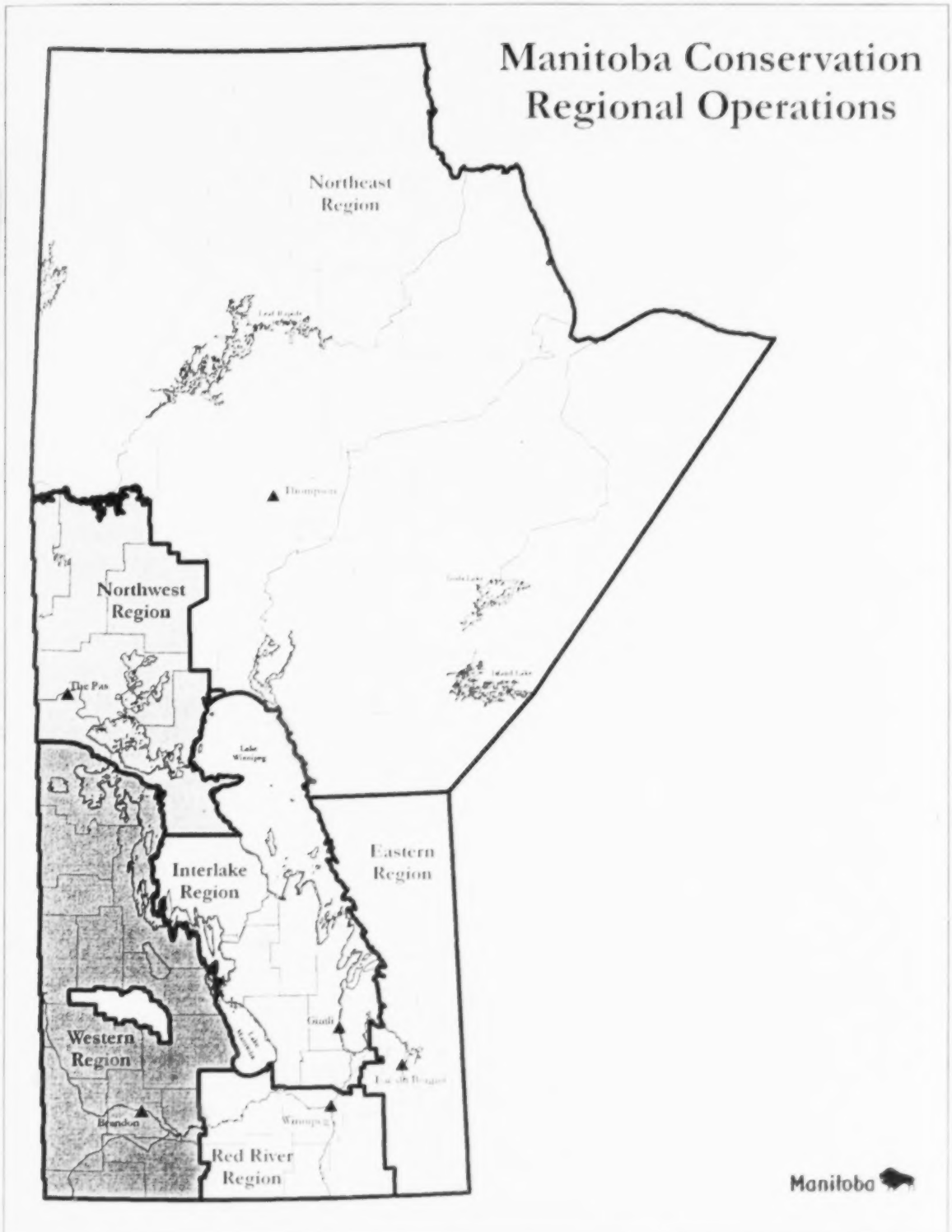
Programs and services delivered at the community level include:

- Field activities for resource and environmental management,
- Compliance and enforcement activities related to natural resource, public health and environmental legislation,
- Environmental Livestock Program,
- Environmental Programs, which includes transportation of dangerous goods, petroleum storage, contaminated sites, hazardous waste and onsite wastewater,
- Operation and maintenance of provincial parks, including provision of public safety & security
- Response to environmental and public health emergencies,
- Wildfire prevention and suppression,
- Protection of people, livestock, crops and property from predators and other wildlife.

Regions administer programs and services for the following areas: Crown lands, Provincial Parks, environmental programs, wildlife, forestry, public health, and wildfire protection. This includes development, delivery, and evaluation of programs and services, and inspection, compliance and enforcement of environment, resource, and health legislation.

The following map outlines the location of the regions which are individually highlighted further in this section.


Manitoba Conservation
Regional Operations
Northeast
Region
Thompson
Northwest
Region
The Pas
Interlake
Region
Eastern
Region
Gimli
Winnipeg
Western
Region
Red River
Region
Manitoba


Manitoba Conservation
Regional Operations
Northeast
Region
Northwest
Region
Interlake
Region
Eastern
Region
Western
Region
Red River
Region
Manitoba

Enforcement

Tables RO.1 through RO.7 summarize enforcement actions undertaken by the department's Environment Officers, Natural Resource Officers, and seasonal Resource Officers.

Table RO.1
Livestock Regulation Enforcement 1998/99 to 2005/06

Fiscal Year	Prosecutions	*Warnings*	Orders	Fines ($)
1999-00	9	35	10	8,496
2000-01	16	49	22	8,067
2001-02	16	53	34	11,903
2002-03	15	59	21	20,280
2003-04	19	54	57	23,076
2004-05	16	63	45	36,960
2005-06	12	53	35	8,935

Table RO.2
Environmental Programs Enforcement

Legislation	Prosecutions	Warnings	Orders and Suspensions	Fines($)
The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act	50	9	2	24,515
- Dangerous Goods Handling & Transportation Regulation				
- Storage and Handling of Petroleum Products and Allied Product Regulation				
The Environment Act	27	115	50	17,207
- Litter Regulation				
- Onsite Wastewater Management Systems Regulation				
- Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation				
- Waste Disposal Grounds Regulation				
The Public Health Act	17	88	21	4,030
- Dwellings and Buildings Regulation				
- Food and Food Handling Establishments Regulation				
- Swimming Pools and Other Water Recreational Facilities Regulation				
The Non-Smokers Health Protection Act	2	4		259
Municipal By-laws	5	8	1	1,250
Total	**101**	**224**	**74**	**$47,261**

Table RO.3
Common Violations under *The Provincial Parks Act*

Offence	Prosecutions	Warnings	Total Offences	Evictions
No Park Vehicle Pass	1,269	2	1,271	0
Cause Disturbance	88	130	218	880
Parking Violations	135	15	150	0
Disobey Officer/Sign/Permit	28	32	60	8
Fail to Control Pet / On Beach	13	25	38	1
Unlawful Vehicle Operation	17	18	35	1
Have Liquor Where Prohibited	29	6	35	98
Possess Fireworks	19	11	30	0
Camp w/o Permit/Prohibited	9	16	25	5
Damage Pollute Park Property	12	8	20	0
Fail to Maintain Campsite	6	4	10	0
Fire w/o Permit/Unattended Fire	6	0	6	0
Other	3	6	9	0
Total	**1,634**	**273**	**1,907**	**993**

Table RO.4
Common Violations under *The Wildlife Act*

Offence	Prosecutions	Warnings	Total Offences
Tagging / Transportation Infractions	91	21	112
Hunt From or Have Loaded Firearm in Vehicle	86	4	90
Hunt/Trap/Guide W/O Licence / Licence Infractions	35	19	54
Hunt Prohibited Area/Private Land W/O Permission	45	7	52
Hunt or Discharge Firearm From Road	31	0	31
Possess Illegally Taken / Prohibited Wildlife	18	4	22
Night Hunting / Dangerous Hunting	17	4	21
Hunt for Remuneration / Illegal Sale of Wildlife	18	0	18
Equipment Infractions	9	8	17
Bait Infractions	7	6	13
Abandon/Waste Game	5	4	9
Hunt Out of Season	4	1	5
Other	10	6	16
Total	**376**	**84**	**460**

Table RO.5

Common Violations under *Fisheries Act* (Canada), and The *Fisheries Act* (Manitoba)

Offence	Prosecutions	Warnings	Total Offences
Equipment Infractions	326	36	362
Licence Infractions	195	125	320
Exceed Limits	103	22	125
Transportation Infractions	22	59	81
Illegal Sale / Possession of Fish	31	8	39
Wastage of Fish	13	6	19
Fish During Closed Time / Closed Area	5	3	8
Live Bait Infractions	6	0	6
Other	6	1	7
Total	**707**	**260**	**967**

Table RO.6

Comparison of Wildlife, Fisheries, Parks and Migratory Birds Prosecutions 1996/97 to 2005/06

Fiscal Year	Wildlife	Fisheries	Parks	Migratory Birds
1996-97	441	976	173	26
1997-98	421	846	171	9
1998-99	278	965	248	6
1999-00	337	833	219	36
2000-01	371	610	203	8
2001-02	379	674	227	8
2002-03	213	537	195	9
2003-04	321	654	1,523*	15
2004-05	287	660	1,219**	9
2005-06	376	707	1,634***	15

*Includes 1267 Parking and No Park Vehicle Pass violations not reported before 2003-04.
**Includes 933 Parking and No Park Vehicle Pass violations not reported before 2003-04.
***Includes 1,421 Parking and No Park Vehicle Pass violations not reported before 2003-04.

Table RO.7

Record of Violations Occurring 2005/06

Acts	Prosecutions	*Warnings*	Total Offences
Criminal Code	2	0	2
Crown Lands	42	22	64
Dutch Elm Disease	0	2	2
Endangered Species	1	0	1
Forest	12	13	25
Fisheries (Canada)	493	98	591
Fisheries (Manitoba)	214	162	376
Highway Traffic	53	33	86
Liquor Control	261	23	284
Migratory Birds	15	12	27
Off Road Vehicle	25	25	50
Provincial Parks	1634	273	1907
Resource Tourism Operator	1	3	4
Wild Animal & Plant Protection	1	4	5
Wildfires	73	13	86
Wildlife	376	84	460
Water Rights	3	10	13
Total	**3206**	**777**	**3983**

Total Fines: $327,535.83 for 2005-06
(Includes $56,095.00 in Parking and No Park Vehicle Pass fines not reported previous to 2003-04)

Hunter and Firearm Safety Training

Manitoba Wildlife Federation administers and delivers the Hunter and Firearm Safety Training Program. In 2005 there were about 248 active instructors who graduated 2611 students.

Since the program began in 1964, a total of 145,258 students have been trained (Table RO.8). Table RO.9 shows firearm incident statistics, by five-year average since 1964. Table RO.10 provides statistics on firearm incidents and fatalities over the last 10 years. (*Non-hunting incidents* refer to incidents in the home, children playing with firearms, and the like).

Table RO.8

Hunter and Firearm Safety Program 1996-2005

Year	Students	Total to Date	Instructors Certified
1996	2,115	126,318	11
1997	2,101	128,419	8
1998	1,807	130,226	24
1999	2,068	132,294	15
2000	2,079	134,373	5
2001	1,976	136,349	4
2002	2,191	138,540	7
2003	2,059	140,599	14
2004	2,336	142,935	24
2005	2,611	145,546	14

Table RO.9
Firearm Accidents, 1964-2003, 5-Year Averages

1964-68	64
1969-73	56
1974-78	54
1979-83	43
1984-88	26
1989-93	20
1994-98	9
1999-03	6

Table RO.10
Firearm Accidents 1996-2005

Year	Accidents			Fatalities		
	Hunting	Non-Hunting	Total	Hunting	Non-Hunting	Total
1996	6	2	8	1	0	1
1997	2	6	8	0	2	2
1998	4	2	6	1	0	1
1999	10	5	15	3	1	4
2000	3	0	3	0	0	0
2001	6	0	6	3	0	3
2002	2	0	2	1	0	1
2003	4	0	4	1	0	1
2004	5	1	6	1	0	1
2005	2	3	5	1	0	1

Hunter-Killed Livestock Compensation

The Program compensates livestock owners for animals deemed accidentally shot by licensed hunters during an open big game season. Claims are investigated by Natural Resource Officers and occasionally by the RCMP. This year, two claims qualified for compensation at $1,100. Program activity for the past ten years is illustrated in Table RO.11.

Table RO.11
Hunter-Killed Livestock Compensation 1996/97 to 2005/06

Year Paid	Claims	Claims Paid	Total Paid	Average Paid
1996-97	4	4	$9,800	$2,450
1997-98	2	2	$2,250	$1,125
1998-99	7	6	$9,533	$1,589
1999-00	9	6	$5,670	$945
2000-01	7	4	$4,120	$1,030
2001-02	6	5	$5,034	$1,007
2002-03	9	5	$5,716	$1,143
2003-04	3	3	$2,358	$786
2004-05	4	1	$600	$600
2005-06	3	2	$1,100	$550

Problem Wildlife Complaints

Polar bear occurrences were down more than 50% from last year which is about 30% lower than the average of the last ten years. It was a record year for black bear with complaints up almost 86% over last year creating significant control challenges for department staff. A summary of occurrences by region is presented in Table RO.12.

Table RO.12
Problem Wildlife Occurrences

Species	Region						Total	% of Total
	NE	NW	E	I	W	RR		
Beaver	0	3	50	109	60	47	269	5%
Black Bear	164	282	755	664	360	147	2372	47%
Polar Bear	132	0	0	0	0	0	132	3%
Big Game	1	2	3	76	171	59	312	6%
Wolf	17	18	21	28	52	14	150	3%
Migratory Birds	0	25	6	81	138	25	275	6%
Other*	19	16	83	298	568	534	1518	30%
Total	**333**	**346**	**918**	**1256**	**1349**	**826**	**5028**	**100%**

***Other includes coyote, fox, racoon, skunk, etc.**

Special Investigations Unit

Regional investigators assisted various districts with complex investigations primarily related to illegal harvest and use of fish and wildlife. The unit also assisted regions with investigations into illegal outfitting activities and big game license fraud. The unit assisted regions with the preparation, execution and review of various search warrants.

Through successful covert operations, the unit detected and prosecuted illegal activities involving commercial activity related to fish sales in the Winnipeg area. The unit also concluded a 12-month undercover operation and a 6-month undercover operation involving the illegal trade in bear parts within two separate areas of Manitoba.

A successful prosecution was also achieved relating to a penned hunt investigation which occurred in early 2005.

Turn-in-Poachers and Report Forest Fires Line (T.I.P.)

The toll free telephone service (1-800-782-0076) which is aimed at reducing the illegal harvest of fish and wildlife received 330 calls resulting in 37 prosecutions and eight warnings. In addition, the toll free line received 52 calls reporting forest fires.

Table RO.13
T.I.P. Calls by Region

	Number of Calls					Number of Prosecutions			
Region	Fish	Wildlife	Other	Fire	Total	Fish	Wildlife	Other	Total
Red River	13	78	0	1	92	7	8	0	15
Interlake	18	59	2	1	80	6	1	0	7
Western	19	72	1	3	95	1	7	1	9
Eastern	7	50	0	16	73	1	4	0	5
Northwest	4	3	1	15	23	1	0	0	1
Northeast	2	1	0	16	19	0	0	0	0
Total	63	263	4	52	382	16	20	1	37

Table RO.14
T.I.P. Calls by Year 1997-98 to 2005-06

	97-98	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05	05-06
Calls Received	640	695	758	568	569	485	406	358	330
For Information	39	24	28	23	18	31	19	21	10
Calls Actioned	302	298	321	204	230	218	235	226	217
Prosecutions	74	74	70	59	40	30	37	21	37
Warnings	16	12	23	37	12	8	2	5	8

Wildfire Investigation

There were 58 human caused wildfires investigated, resulting in seventy-four prosecutions and support provided for twenty-three fire suppression cost recovery chargebacks. The relatively high percentage of intentionally lit fires, 13%, continues to be a large concern.

Of the 74 prosecutions, 68 pertained to four individuals on one fire which was successfully prosecuted.

Criminal Code arson charges were filed as a result of a two and one-half year investigation into an intentionally lit fire from 2003.

Canine Program

The Manitoba Conservation Canine Team was used extensively throughout the year and across the province. Jake, a Belgian Malanois, worked on a variety of details including roadside check stations, searching for evidence involving investigations of illegal fishing and hunting, tracking individuals who fled from officers and assisted other agencies with such things as searching for lost persons. The team was also involved with forest fire investigations, provided instruction in defensive tactics, firearms and Use of Force.

Public education programs were conducted in schools and at public meetings throughout the Province.

Regional Support Services

This section provides co-ordination, direction and support to the regions through:

- Provision of staffing co-ordination, training and equipment for field staff, primarily consisting of Environment Officers, Natural Resource Officers and seasonal officers.
- Development and maintenance of policies, procedures, guidelines, manuals, forms, data and electronic services to ensure consistent and effective regional program delivery.
- Co-ordination of 24-hour response to environmental incidents, forest fires and resource-law violations.
- Provision of special investigation and forensic services through Special Investigations Unit and Canine Team.
- Provision of leadership, interpretation and guidance on the department's enforcement & compliance activities and liaison between regions, program branches, Water Stewardship, Justice and other federal and provincial agencies.
- Analysis and development of compliance strategies and legislation relating to programs requiring delivery by Operations Division staff.
- Administration and claim evaluation under the Hunter-Killed Livestock Compensation Program and administration of the Guide Licensing program.

The following key activities were carried out in 2005/06.

- The Section initiated operational change and program review regarding the delivery of safety & security in provincial parks. A continuous eviction tracking database was developed and new regulatory provisions allowing for 21 day evictions were implemented to help combat rowdyism.

- The Section produced a comprehensive update for the Conservation legislation Set Fine Book issued to Environment Officers and Resource Officers and continued the development of ENFOR prosecution & occurrence tracking computer application.

- Assisted in legislative amendments relating to *The Wildlife Act, The Provincial Parks Act, The Endangered Species Act* and *The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act*.

- Expanded and improved the Division intranet site with the addition of licences and permits issued under *The Resource Tourism Operators Act.*

- Participated in policy development and related inter-agency liaison concerning problem black bears, problem beaver, fish habitat destruction, fish marketing, parks reservation service, boating restrictions in parks, workplace safety & health, West Nile Virus, public health inspection services, government security initiative and business continuity planning.

- Licensing of hunting guides has remained constant with only minor variations in numbers issued. Licences were issued to 1,484 guides in 2005/06.

- Twenty-five new Park Patrol Officers were recruited from across Canada and were certified to department standards over eight days in hospitality, tactical communications, defensive tactics, firearms and legislation before being hired and assigned to various parks for 17 weeks of employment.

- Nine new seasonal Assistant Resource Officers received basic training in tactical shotgun, defensive tactics, baton deployment and officer safety.

- Eight new Natural Resource Officer recruits were trained and certified in advanced tactical driving and the use of issued firearms.

- Sixteen Environment Officers were given basic enforcement training.

- All Natural Resource Officers and Assistant Resource Officers were given refresher training and recertification in firearms and defensive tactics at Central Training, with 36 officers receiving additional remedial training

- Advanced tactical driving refresher training was delivered to 24 officers, and an additional 24 officers received federally mandated Marine Emergency Duties certification from a contractor.

Table RO.15

12.3(a) Regional Support Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,870.6	34.50	1,937.4	(66.8)	
Other Expenditures	1,018.4		1,065.6	(47.2)	
Problem Wildlife Control	466.9		490.6	(23.7)	
Total 12.3(a)	**3,355.9**	**34.50**	**3,493.6**	**(137.7)**	

Northwest Region

The Northwest Region encompasses a diverse landscape that includes parts of the Manitoba Lowlands and Canadian Shield natural regions. The Region is dominated by boreal forest, lakes and rivers, largely in a natural state.

Mineral extraction, processing and exploration, commercial timber harvesting and processing (lumber and pulp and paper), agriculture (Manitoba's most northerly farming community), resource-based tourism (lodges and outfitting) and commercial fishing and trapping are the main industries providing economic and employment benefits in the Region. The harvesting of wild rice and of non-timber forest products also provide for some local employment. Domestic and recreational use of the Region's wildlife, fish and forest resources by the resident of the Region is also significant.

Due to the values-at-risk associated with towns and communities and with timber values, the Region's fire management and suppression program is the most significant and highest priority program delivered in the Northwest Region in terms of both employment and expenditures. It normally runs from May through September. At the same time the Region delivers services, programs and security in the Clearwater Lake, Bakers Narrows, Grass River and Wekusko Provincial Parks. The management and allocation of Crown land and resources to different, often competing, users and compliance monitoring and enforcement of Crown land, resource and environmental legislation are year round activities in the Region. Participation on co-management boards and problem wildlife are also important program activities in the Region.

The Northwest Region has a Regional Office located at The Pas and District Offices located at Cranberry Portage, Flin Flon, Snow Lake, Grand Rapids and The Pas.

The following key activities were carried out in 2005/06.

Enforcement

- Natural Resource Officers conducted patrols to ensure compliance with the various Acts and Regulations. This resulted in 281 enforcement actions, (191 charges, 80 warnings, seven evictions, and 3 trespass dues). Officers responded to 569 Occurrence Reports, of which 346 were problem wildlife, 146 regulatory and 77 non-regulatory in nature. Officers checked 593 licenced hunters, 49 subsistence hunters, 2,468 anglers, 354 commercial fishers, 452 commercial fisher's nets, 55 subsistence fishers, and 17 domestic nets. There were 7 roadside check stations conducted throughout the region. Staff also conducted 176 timber inspections on 67 cut blocks within the Tolko Harvest areas.
- Public Health Inspectors/Environment Officers conducted 150 inspections to ensure compliance with the various *Acts* and *Regulations*. This resulted in 4 enforcement actions under the *Environment Act*.

Fire

- The Region received above average rainfall and this resulted in a below average fire season. The first human caused fire occurred on April 27 and the first lightning fire started May 29. Total fires for the season were 35, of which 20 were lightning caused and 15 human caused. 51.9 hectares were burnt, with the largest fire being 28.0 hectares at McNeil Lake in the Snow Lake District.

Provincial Parks

- A new boat launch was completed and the beach was enlarged at the Gyles campground in Grass River Provincial Park.
- Construction of six new yurt campsites was started at each of Campers Cove in Clearwater Lake Provincial Park and Bakers Narrows Provincial Park.
- The electrification of 14 new campsites was initiated at Bakers Narrows Provincial Park and will be completed in 2006.
- Upgrading of the Caves self-guiding trail at Clearwater Lake Provincial Park was completed.
- Recycling programs at Clearwater Lake and Bakers Narrows Provincial Parks were expanded resulting in increased participation.

Forestry

- Tolko Manitoba's 2005/06 Annual Harvest and Renewal Plan was reviewed. The timber volume approved for harvesting was 504,740 m^3 with an additional 176,730 m^3 approved as contingency blocks. The region reviewed Tolko's Annual Harvest and Renewal Plan and issued 100 work permits to the company. Staff also participated on Tolko's CSA Certification Committee and Forest Resource Advisory Committees.
- The Annual Operating Plan submitted by Tolko under the Chemawawin First Nation/Tolko Partnership Agreement for the harvest of 60,000 m^3 was reviewed.
- Regional staff coordinated the planting of 80,000 trees. Budgeting, site preparation, snow caching and preplanning were conducted in preparation for the spring 2006 planting of 540,000 trees.

Wildlife

- An aerial population estimate of the Game Hunting Area (GHA) 8 moose herd revealed a significant increase in numbers during the last six-year hunting closure. As a result, the GHA 8 Cooperative Moose Management Committee, comprised of representatives from the Opaskwayak, Mosakahikan and Grand Rapids Cree Nations, Community of Cormorant, The Pas Game and Fish and Manitoba Conservation has recommended the licensed moose season be reopened.
- Woodland caribou monitoring and research continued throughout the Northwest Region to support the completion of regional action plans to conserve the species called for by federal *Species as Risk Act (SARA)*. The Region is well positioned to develop action plans based as a result of the extensive data collection over the past decade. The data collection has been supported by many partners including the federal government (Habitat Stewardship Program), Manitoba Hydro, Tolko Industries, University of Manitoba, University of Toronto, Parks Canada, Trent University, Norway House Cree Nation, Aboriginal and Northern Affairs, and the Northwest Region Woodland Caribou Advisory Committee.
- Ducks' Unlimited Canada and Manitoba Conservation have embarked on a 4-year wetland research project in the lower Saskatchewan River Delta (Summerberry Marshes) to assess wetland productivity issues, particularly declining muskrat populations. Manitoba Hydro is a major sponsor of the work.
- Inventories of Red-sided Gartner Snakes, Little Brown Bats and Piping Plovers were conducted to document critical habitat for these species.
- Regional staff participated on the Forest Practices Committee in the development of a provincial Riparian Management Guidebook.

Lands

- A contract was awarded for the construction of the access road in the Athapapuskow "D" cottage subdivision near Cranberry Portage. Extremely wet conditions prevented the completion of the road and work will resume in the spring/summer of 2006.
- Two new cottage developments consisting of 41 lots on First Cranberry Lake and 20 lots on Twin Lakes were designed, surveyed, and included in the Fall 2005 provincial cottage lot draw.
- The management and administration of existing cottage subdivisions, general permits and leases, and sale of Crown land in agricultural and open Crown land in the region continued.

Environment

- 54 field inspections were conducted to ensure operators were in compliance with the Storage and Handling of Petroleum Products and Allied Products Regulation.
- The region researched and complied a list of sites for the Environmental Liabilities Checklist which is required to establish an amount for reporting of this financial liability for the first time in 2005/06.
- Responded to public complaints and conducted routine sampling on an ongoing basis to ensure compliance with Environment Act Licences.

Table RO.16
12.3(b) Northwest Region

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,972.1	39.15	2,067.2	(95.1)	
Other Expenditures	768.5		764.1	4.4	
Total 12.3(b)	**2,740.6**	**39.15**	**2,831.3**	**(90.7)**	

Northeast Region

The Northeast Region encompasses 60% of the land area of Manitoba and is comprised primarily of vast uninterrupted tracts of boreal forest transitioning to taiga in the far north. The majority of the land base remains in its natural state, unaltered and undeveloped, and is largely inaccessible due to an extremely limited road network.

On a capita per area basis the Northeast Region is the most sparsely populated area. Mineral extraction, processing and exploration, hydro-electric generation and transmission, resource-based tourism (lodges and outfitting), timber harvesting and commercial fishing and trapping are the main industries generating economic and employment benefits for the Region and Province. Domestic and recreational use of the Region's wildlife, fish and forest resources by the residents of the Region is also significant.

Due to the values-at-risk associated with towns and communities and with timber values, the Region's fire management and suppression program is the most significant and highest priority program delivered in the Northeast Region in terms of both employment and expenditures. It normally runs from May through September. At the same time the Region delivers services, programs and security at Paint Lake Provincial Park. The management and allocation of Crown land and resources to different, often competing, users and compliance monitoring and enforcement of Crown land, resource and environmental legislation are year round activities in the Region. Participation on co-management boards and problem wildlife, including the high profile Polar Bear Alert Program at Churchill, are also important program activities in the Region.

The Northeast Region has a Regional Office located at Thompson, District Offices located at Churchill, Gillam, Thompson, Wabowden, Lynn Lake, Leaf Rapids, Norway House, Island Lake, and Gods Narrows, and sub-District Offices located at Split Lake, Nelson House, Pukatawagan, South Indian Lake, Cross Lake, and Oxford House.

Regional staff participated on the Nelson House, Split Lake, York Factory, Norway House and the newly established Fox Lake Resource Management Boards, the Beverly Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board and the Wapusk National Park Management Board.

The Integrated Resource Management Team met regularly to evaluate and provide recommendations for Crown land applications, resource-based tourism applications, annual timber harvesting and renewal plans, *Environment Act* proposals, Treaty Land Entitlement selections and other related land or resource plans.

The following key activities were carried out in 2005/06.

Enforcement

- Natural Resource Officers checked 1,612 anglers, 648 hunters (501 big game, 89 migratory bird, 58 upland game bird), and 120 commercial fishermen. Staff inspected timber operations and most remote lodges, outcamps and tent-camp sites, and monitored campers and day-users in Parks, resulting in 53 Prosecutions, 57 Warnings and 23 Evictions. 326 Timber Permits, 189 Work Permits, 143 Burning Permits, and 17 General Fishing Permits were issued through District Offices.

Fire

- Due to a combination of timely rains, below normal temperatures and high water levels, the Northeast Region experienced a below average fire season in 2005/06.

- A total of 151 fires burned 71,573 hectares of forested land. 75% of the total area burned (54,531 ha.) was in the Observation Zone and did not require suppression action. Lightning was responsible for 109 of these fires, while the remainder were human-caused. None of the fires posed any significant threat to people or property.

- Northeast Region Initial Attack personnel were deployed to assist other agencies with fire suppression. Personnel were sent on two separate occasions to Quebec and Ontario.

Provincial Parks

- In the main campground at Paint Lake Provincial Park, 20 electrical sites were completed, the main shower building was refurbished and handicap access was improved.

- Improvements were made at the waste disposal ground that services Paint Lake Provincial Park and the recycling program was enhanced throughout the Park, with the Paint Lake Cottage Association being an important partner in both these initiatives.

- New docks were placed at the boat launches in Zed Lake and Burge Lake Provincial Parks.

Forestry

- Regional staff coordinated the planting of 60,000 trees, site preparation on 71 hectares and brushing of 10 hectares of hardwood competition on Timber Sales.

- The Region participated in discussions with Tolko Industries Ltd. concerning continued operations at the saw and pulp mills. The Region's focus was primarily on issues related to wood supply.

- There were three active Timber Sales in the Northeast Region in 2005.

- Community tree plants occurred in Thompson, Churchill and Lynn Lake. Youth from all three communities participated in the planting of the trees.

- The Northeast Region continues to work with First Nations in assessing the potential economic and employment benefits associated with community-based forest management initiatives. The focus in 2005 was in the Pukatawagan (Mathias Colomb First Nation) and Island Lake (St. Theresa Point First Nation) areas.

Wildlife

- The 2005 Polar Bear Alert Program was not as busy as compared to recent years. There were a total of 58 polar bear incidents handled by staff and 132 occurrences were reported. Polar bears were still noted on the ice as of July 21 along the Cape Tatnam coastline and all polar bears that were on land were noted to be in very good shape coming off the ice. The waste disposal ground at Churchill was closed on November 1 but there was no apparent increase in the level of polar bear activity noted in the control zone, likely due to the good condition of the bears and a normal freeze up of the Hudson Bay.

- Moose and black bear numbers were reported to be healthy throughout the Region resulting in resident and non-resident hunting success.

- The migration of the Qamanirjuaq caribou into Manitoba occurred the latter part of August and based on reports received, it would appear that a higher than normal number of animals moved into the province this year. The Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board continued to meet and function effectively in 2005/06, and through it efforts twenty (20) satellite collars were deployed on animals along the Hudson Bay coast in March. Hunting success by residents and non-residents was very good again this year and patrol coverage along the winter road system was increased due to high numbers of caribou in the area.

- Due to a late freeze up, trapping pressure was reduced in the 2005/06 trapping season. This was reflected at the Thompson Fur Table which was attended by 176 trappers and resulted in fur buyers purchasing $256,787.00 worth of fur. The price paid on fur caught this year was very good and it is expected there will be an increase in trapping activity next season.

- Wildlife Management Area Use Permits were issued to commercial tourism operators offering polar bear viewing in both the Churchill and Cape Tatnam Wildlife Management Areas. The 2005 season was again a success for the operators with no significant people/bear incidences occurring.

Lands

- Mineral exploration activities regulated by Work Permits continued across much of the Region in the winter. Geophysics and drilling activities occurred in Lynn Lake, Leaf Rapids, Churchill, Wabowden, Thompson, Gillam, Island Lake, Norway House and Gods Lake Narrows districts.

- The Treaty Land Entitlement process continued. Fourteen First Nations included in the *TLE Framework Agreement* are in the Region; all 14 First Nations have or are in the process of making land selections.

- The Region reviewed and provided comments on 45 Crown Land applications, 35 Crown Land assignments, 6 Crown Land Change-in-use applications, 120 Casual Quarry Permit applications, 33 Licence Advisory Committee Licence applications, 11 LAC Renewal applications, 1 LAC Transfer Applications, 1 Environment Licence Pre-screening proposal, 2 Environment Licence Applications and 42 Treaty Land Entitlement Selections.

Environment

- Environment Officers/Public Health Inspectors inspected rental accommodations, commercial food establishments, wastewater facilities, waste disposal grounds and contaminated soil remediation sites. Three warnings were issued under *The Public Health Act*.

- Regional staff continue to be involved with the Thompson Recycling Centre.

Table RO.17

12.3(c) Northeast Region

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,463.0	46.38	2,528.4	(65.4)	
Other Expenditures	987.7		944.8	42.9	
Total 12.3(c)	**3,450.7**	**46.38**	**3,473.2**	**(22.5)**	

Interlake Region

The Interlake Region is bounded on the east by Lake Winnipeg and on the west by Lakes Manitoba and Winnipegosis. The region lies predominantly within the boreal plains ecozone while the southern portion is characterized by the transition from prairies to forested landscape. Although the southern portion of the region is highly developed for agricultural and industrial uses, the majority of the region remains in its natural state.

The southern portion of the Interlake Region has a relatively large rural population based on intensive agricultural activities and some industrial uses. High density of housed livestock operations and cattle ranching occurs and as a result the region administers all environment regulations pertaining to these uses. The northern portion of the region is forested and with the large lakes and wetlands wildlife is abundant. The Interlake Region is particularly noted for its large numbers of migrating waterfowl. Lakes Winnipeg, Manitoba and Winnipegosis support significant inland commercial fisheries as a basis of economy in the lake communities. Grand Beach and Birds Hill Provincial Parks receive the highest use of parks in the province with 2 million visitors annually. The Red River supports the heaviest recreational fishery in the province with about 25% of angling in the province occurring on the Red River from Winnipeg to Lake Winnipeg.

The Interlake Region has a regional office in Gimli and district offices at Ashern, Birds Hill, Grand Beach, Gypsumville, Hodgson, Lundar, Riverton, Selkirk and Winnipeg Beach.

The following key activities were carried out in 2005/06.

Enforcement

- The Interlake Region received 2,538 Occurrence Reports, of which 1,256 were about problem wildlife. The remainder were 760 calls for regulatory and 522 non-regulatory issues in areas such as wildfires, parks, fishing, hunting and Crown Lands.

- Staff undertook 1,435 enforcement actions, which resulted in 633 charges, 179 warnings, and 623 evictions from Parks. There were 107 charges under *The Manitoba Fisheries Regulation*, 137 charges were under *The Liquor Control Act* and 103 charges under *The Provincial Parks Act*.

Fire Management

- The Interlake Region had a total of 15 wildfires during the 2005 season. The largest wildfire was in the Hodgson district and reached a size of 80 hectares.

- Spring weather played a large factor in reducing the threat of wildfires with continual cool weather and above normal rainfall for 2005.

- Basic firefighting training of Parks Maintenance staff was carried out at Hecla, Grand Beach and Birds Hill provincial parks.

- A number of seasonal fire staff within the region provided assistance with sandbagging to protect property on the west shore of the south basin of Lake Winnipeg from high water. This provided a good opportunity for our front line staff to interact with volunteers, property owners and municipal officials as they provided a large contribution in this emergency situation.

Provincial Parks

- Consultations continued with First Nation communities in the area on the Fisher Bay Park Reserve.

- There were 205 special events were hosted in Interlake Provincial Parks with over 50% occurring in Birds Hill Provincial Park.

- The Winnipeg Folk Festival at Birds Hill drew over 47,000 patrons in 2005. Grand Beach had an estimated 157,000 vehicles enter the park. Birds Hill vehicle traffic was approximately 272,000 vehicles and Hecla Provincial Park had 30,000 vehicles.

- In 2005, a new ecological reserve was established at the Brokenhead Wetland. Brokenhead First Nation and the Native Orchid Society of Manitoba were instrumental in its establishment.

- A comprehensive beach safety risk assessment was done for all Interlake beach water fronts. 2005 Beach Safety plans were then established as a framework for staff to follow.

- The Gull Harbor Resort was sold in November 2005 and is scheduled for major redevelopment.

Forestry

- In general, the volume harvested this year in the Interlake was up compared to the last couple of years with less quota holders operating but greater volumes being harvested by those who were active.

- Due to very wet and below normal temperatures throughout the region, there was very little harvest activity during the fire season (April to October) except north of Gypsumville off of Hwy # 6 where Tembec continued to conduct softwood in-bush chipping operations to support their mill needs during the frost-free period.

- Very little frost combined with above average snowfall and above normal temperatures made it very difficult for the operators to access the winter areas, therefore, harvest volume in the winter months was well below normal.

- Demand for both softwood and hardwood volume in-province, and from the US and Ontario remained strong throughout the summer and fall. In the winter months, the demand for hardwood from the US declined rapidly as their mills were flush with wood from the fall. Demand from Ontario markets for hardwood remained strong throughout the year.

- There was a total of 75,000 M^3 of hardwood and softwood harvested in the region.

Wildlife

- Oak Hammock Marsh Wildlife Management Area (WMA) continues to be one of Manitoba's premier wildlife viewing destinations with over 200,000 visitors on an annual basis. A cooperative infrastructure and maintenance program agreement involving Ducks Unlimited Canada as a partner has been implemented to upgrade and expand existing infrastructure and habitat.

- The Narcisse Snake Dens continue to be one of the major wildlife viewing sites in the Interlake with 50,000 visitors per year. New interpretive signage and improvements to the interpretive trails have added to the viewing

experience. The Narcisse Snake Advisory Committee continues to provide advice and recommendations to government on the management of the snake dens.

- The Chitek Lake Wood Bison herd has expanded its range and animals are now found north and west of Chitek Lake. An aerial survey was flown in the area in February 2006, a total of 168 bison were observed, resulting in a population estimate of 200 animals.

- An elk population survey was flown in the south Interlake in January 2006, resulting in a population estimate of 1,200 animals. This is the largest population of elk recorded in the Interlake.

- Maintenance and improvement work was undertaken on several wildlife management areas, including sign replacement, construction of new garbage containers, and treatment of noxious weeds.

- An extremely wet fall and late harvest conditions created substantial waterfowl crop depredation problems in the Oak Hammock Marsh and Riverton areas in 2005. Staff deployed all of the available propane bangers, and scarecrows in these areas. An estimated 300,000 geese and 150,000 ducks were staging at Oak Hammock Marsh during peak migration.

- Deep snow resulted in elk depredation on numerous farms in the Lundar and Hodgson districts from January to March 2006. Staff employed propane bangers, scarecrows, lights, and radios to help protect the farmer's stored feed supplies. This winter's depredation highlighted the need for an additional elk barrier fences to help protect farmers stored feed supplies in the Interlake Region.

- The Interlake Region is recognized as a popular hunting area for non-resident deer, bear, and game bird hunting, which generates significant economic benefits for many of the smaller Interlake communities. About 75 licensed outfitters provide hunts for 1,000 deer and bear hunters, and 1,500 game bird hunters.

Lands

- There were 71 lots of the 120 Crown land lots sold at the Little Deer cottage subdivision in the Interlake. The road construction for this subdivision is scheduled for summer 2006.

- A new 71 subdivision at Mill Point Beaches just north of Riverton has been planned and it will be in the next scheduled public cottage lot draw.

- The Region received approximately 150 applications for crown quarry permits, 2 new snowmobile trail proposals, 60 resource-based tourism facility applications, 15 policy and planning reviews, 182 private land subdivisions, 20 water rights licences, 25 municipal planning reviews/By-law Amendments and 3 *Environment Act* License proposals.

- Staff assessed approximately 1,500 operational land use code amendments related to the requirements for the proposed Orientated Strand Board plant in the southern Interlake.

- Staff reviewed and commented on approximately 100 applications for proposed shoreline erosion protection works through the Shoreline Erosion Technical Committee.

Environment

- Interlake Region continues to work with municipalities on solid waste management by working with local government to ensure closure of unacceptable waste disposal sites and developing proper sites or converting existing sites to waste transfer stations. Staff continues to work toward the closure of the last of the liquid waste pits in the region and to work with municipalities and other agencies to speed construction of engineered sewage lagoons or other treatment facilities to properly treat sewage wastes. Staff are also working with municipalities to ensure that existing sewage treatment facilities are upgraded when required or that new facilities are constructed.

- Staff continued work with livestock producers to ensure compliance with regulations. A new regulation is in place and an Environment Officer was assigned to focus on livestock issues. The new regulation applies to more livestock operations and manure storage facilities to further enhance protection of groundwater and surface water resources.

- Priority was placed on the following public health areas: restaurants, swimming pools, recreation camps, and large public gatherings such as the larger fairs and festivals.

- Researched and complied a list of sites for the Environmental Liabilities Checklist which is required to establish an amount for reporting of this financial liability for the first time in 2005/06.

- Interlake regional environment staff monitored and inspected approximately 2,400 facilities including, but not limited to, gas stations, restaurants, public water supplies, private sewage systems, waste disposal sites and livestock facilities.

Table RO.18

12.3(d) Interlake Region

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	3,281.8	60.64	3,150.1	131.7	
Other Expenditures	1,079.0		1,102.5	(23.5)	
Total 12.3(d)	**4,360.8**	**60.64**	**4,252.6**	**108.2**	

Eastern Region

The Eastern Region is comprised of rural towns, First Nation communities, Canadian Shield boreal forest and agricultural lands. The region contains extensive tracts of natural undisturbed areas. The majority of the land base has not been developed for human occupation.

The Eastern Region encompasses three major provincial parks (Atikaki, Nopiming and the Whiteshell), nine provincial wildlife management areas, seven ecological reserves, eight provincial forests, large tracts of undeveloped Crown land and numerous provincially significant water bodies. Year round outdoor recreational activities play a major economic role in the region. Additionally, resource extraction activities such as mining, forestry and wild rice harvest are also important to the regional and provincial economy.

Woodland caribou are a threatened species that require habitat protection and monitoring research. There are two herds in the Eastern Region; the Atikaki/Berens herd numbering 300-500 and the Owl/Flinstone Lake herd consisting of 70-85 animals.

Major programs associated with the activities described above that are administered by the region include Public Health, Environment Act, Contaminated Sites, Petroleum Storage, On Site Wastewater, Solid Waste Management, Parks Operations and Maintenance, Forest planning and management, Wildlife research and season regulations and wild fire protection and suppression.

The Eastern Region has a Regional Office in Lac du Bonnet and District Offices at Pine Falls, Lac du Bonnet, Beausejour, Sprague, Hadashville, Falcon Lake, West Hawk Lake, Rennie and Seven Sisters.

Eastern regional programs and services are provided by multi-disciplined full-time and seasonal staff working from a Regional Office in Lac du Bonnet and District Offices at Beausejour, Falcon Lake, Hadashville, Lac du Bonnet, Lake Winnipeg East, Pine Falls, Rennie, Seven Sisters, Sprague, and West Hawk Lake, and Sub-District Offices at Berens River and Little Grand Rapids, Piney and Bissett.

The following key activities were carried out in 2005/06.

Enforcement

- Out of a total of 2,425 Occurrence Reports, 968 were problem wildlife, (100 beaver, 755 black bear, 3 big game, 21 wolf, 6 migratory birds, 83 other), 748 were regulatory and 759 were non-regulatory.
- 2,574 hunters were checked resulting in 81 charges and 12 warnings. There were 78 charges, 115 warnings and 249 evictions under *The Provincial Parks Act and Regulations*.
- Natural Resource Officers checked 4,880 anglers resulting in 21 charges and 47 warnings.

Fire Management

- There were 33 wildfires recorded during the 2005 fire season burning 192 hectares, 25 of these were human caused.

Provincial Parks

- The weather was poor during the spring and part of the summer, however use in the parks was at the same level as the previous year. The region experienced a milder winter with good snow conditions which resulted in another good year on the snowmobile and ski trails.

- Ten new yurt sites were completed by mid July at Nutimik Lake Campground. Occupancy rates of these sites were at 65% for the remainder of the year. Work was started to improve thirty-one additional sites at Nutimik Lake Campground. New water and electrical services will be provided here which should be completed by 2006. A major upgrade to the electrical services for the day-use and beach area in Falcon Lake was completed. Development work continued on the Trans-Canada Trail in both the North and South Whiteshell. Frontier School Division started the construction of the new school in Falcon Lake.

- A feasibility study was completed for the proposed expansion to Tulabi Campground within Nopiming Provincial Park.

Forestry

- Major activity continues to be the monitoring and reconciling of Tembec's Annual Operating and Renewal Plans with their field operation. Approximately 165,000 cubic meters of timber were harvested within the Forest Management Licence (FML). Forest renewal activities included the planting of 1.17 million trees on 690 hectares of harvested land.

- Outside of the FML, staff managed the harvest of approximately 326,000 cubic meters of timber and planted 690 hectares of land with 1.7 million seedlings. Scarification for natural regeneration was also performed on 293 hectares.

- A very violent windstorm occurred on July 31st causing many mature jack pine trees to be blown down in the Sandilands Provincial Forest and near the community of Sandilands, Manitoba. Approximately 800 hectares of forest land was impacted. Eastern Region and Forestry Branch staff quickly developed a salvage plan that resulted in approximately 75,000 cubic meters harvested by six Southeast timber quota holders.

- Regional staff continue to participate in the Manitoba Model Forest (MBMF) program which was created in 1992 through a partnership agreement with interested groups looking to support innovative sustainable forest management programs. The focus of the MBMF is to work towards a common understanding of ecosystem based process and sustainable development.

Wildlife

- The Eastern Manitoba Woodland Caribou Advisory Committee produced a report with recommendations on managing the winter habitat of the Owl Lake Herd ("Landscape Management Strategy for the Owl Lake Woodland Caribou Herd; An Update of the Original 1995 Strategy"). Using the principles in this report, the committee developed two types of "caribou" forest harvest designs and implemented these in an experimental forest harvest area within the herd's winter management zone. Several data-gathering projects continued or were initiated to monitor and access the experimental harvest prescriptions, including capture and monitoring of GPS and VHF radio equipped caribou, establishment of permanent vegetation sample plots and a multi species track survey. Numerous committee and sub-committee meetings were held to develop and plan work plan activities, which also included Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) interviews, caribou pellet surveys and work on a newsletter and an interpretive kiosk.

- The Committee for Moose Management continued to work with First Nation communities, fish and wildlife clubs and industry in fostering development of a "managed moose hunting system" that would apply to all people. Two local First Nations initiated community workshops to explore the idea further. A moose survey of GHA 26 was conducted with partnership funding from the moose committee, the Manitoba Model Forest and a local wildlife association.

Lands

- Provincial Cottaging Initiative – sites were selected and new lots were made available for the fall 2005 draw at Lee River. Existing infill lots at Grausdin Point, Totem Road, Traverse Estates and Maple Creek were also advertised on the draw. Construction of roads and installations of services such as MTS and Hydro at these sites is continuing.

- Additional new subdivision sites have been identified for future cottage draws within the Eastern Region. These are Poplar Bay, Maskwa River, Silver Falls East, Whitemud Falls in the R.M. of Alexander and Newcombe Road in the R.M. of Lac du Bonnet, Blueberry Point, Driftwood Beach and Eagle Rock near the Northern Affairs communities of Manigotagan and Seymourville, Wanipigow Lake near the community of Bissett and Whitemouth Lake near the R.M. of Piney. These areas are in various stages of receiving approvals, surveying and construction.

- Wild Rice season dates and harvest methods in the Whiteshell Provincial Park were co-ordinated with the effected First Nation harvesters. Due to unstable water levels throughout the growing season the wild rice crop was virtually non-existent. Due to the poor crop participation the traditional harvest was low.

- The Eastern Region manages 519 General Permits, 113 Vacation Home Permits, 48 Vacation Home Leases, 77 Miscellaneous Leases, 11 Leases of Occupation and 89 Wild Rice Leases and Licences.

Environment

- Eastern Region Public Health Inspectors provided food-handler training/certification to over 100 food handlers during the 2005/06 fiscal year.

- Over 200 onsite wastewater management systems were registered.

Table RO.19
12.3(e) Eastern Region

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	3,276.0	61.72	3,145.5	130.5	
Other Expenditures	814.0		769.2	44.8	
Total 12.3(e)	**4,090.0**	**61.72**	**3,914.7**	**175.3**	

Western Region

The Western Region is an extremely diverse area which encompasses a range of land based development and activities from urban centres to intensive agricultural and industrial development to remote undeveloped natural habitat. The region reaches from the American border on the south to the northern end of Lake Winnipegosis and is geographically divided in half by the Riding Mountain Nation Park. It was formerly two regions (South West region and

Western Region) and while functioning as one region much of the administration and management is completed by two distinct sub-regions.

The region contains 58% of the Rural Municipalities in the province and is the second most populated area of the province next to the Red River region. Agricultural and use predominates the region which the northern portion supports a significant portion of the provinces forestry industry. As a result of this agricultural land use there are significant problem wildlife issues (beaver, coyote, elk depredation). The region contains 5 well known natural topographic features in the form of the Turtle, Riding Duck and Porcupine Mountains and Lake Winnipegosis. Lake of the Prairies is also one of the premier walleye fisheries in the province. Recreational and Commercial use of natural resources within the region are a major economic stimulus in the region. There are 21 provincial parks in the region. The region contains the majority of outfitters in the province. There are major industrial and agricultural processing industries in the region including Maple Leaf Foods, Louisiana Pacific, Canexus (formerly Nexus), Koch (formerly Simplot), Ayherst Organics, Hazco. All of the above use and activities require extensive administration and monitoring under the Wildlife, Fisheries, Forestry, Parks, Crown Lands, Public Health and Environment Acts and regulations and associated programs.

The Western Regional Office is in Brandon, Sub-regional Offices in Dauphin and Swan River, and District Offices at Brandon, Dauphin, Boissevain, Carberry, Grandview, Killarney, Mafeking, Neepawa, Roblin, Shoal Lake, Swan River, Virden, and Winnipegosis.

The following key activities were carried out in 2005/06.

Enforcement

- There were 2,583 Occurrence Reports of which, 1,349 were for problem wildlife, 866 were regulatory and 368 non-regulatory these include:
  - Problem Wildlife: 60 Beaver, 360 Black Bear, 171 Big Game, 52 Wolf, 138 Migratory Birds, 568 other.
  - Regulatory: 141 Parks, 422 Wildlife, 7 Commercial Fish, 39 Sport Fish, 26 Crown Lands, 6 Forestry, 225 Other.
  - Non-Regulatory: 68 Parks, 137 Wildlife, 55 Road kills, 3 Sport Fish, 2 Commercial Fish, 3 Crown Lands, 4 Forestry, 2 Water Rights, 94 other.
- Wildlife checks resulted in Officers checking 2,502 deer, 413 moose, 751 elk, 15 Caribou, 70 bear, 59 upland game bird and 495 waterfowl hunters, 44 lodges/outfitters, 95 trappers, 438 Treaty Indian hunters, 1 fur dealer, and 16 taxidermists/animal parts dealers.
- Officers checked 7,513 recreational anglers, 131 commercial fishers, 1,383 domestic fishers, 59 Treaty Indian fishers and 316 nets. The Region made 323 off-road vehicle checks and 361 Snoman checks.
- Regional staff spent 384 hours checking domestic spring fishers from April 11 – May 1st, 2005 on Dauphin Lake.
- Forestry checks resulted in Officers checking 330 timber sales/operations, 440 timber permits, 9 sawmill/planers, 7 load slips and 5 trespass operations.
- Resource Officers continued work with livestock producers to reduce numbers of livestock injured or killed by wildlife.

Fire Management

- The first wildfire actioned occurred on April 15th. There were twelve fires in the region – eight human caused and four lightning caused. Twenty-one hectares were burned.

- Twenty one Emergency Fire Fighters Crew Bosses and 85 Emergency Fire Fighters Crew Members were trained. Grandview Fire Department (2) Emergency Fire Fighters Level. Regional and District Fire Clerks attended Fire Administration training in The Pas, MB. I.A. Crew demonstrated for visiting Quebec students. Eight staff attended MB Best training in Swan River. Nineteen staff from the region attended radio course in Swan River. Five Parks staff was trained along with EFF crews.

Provincial Parks

- Kiche Manitou campground at Spruce Woods was flooded by a spring ice jam backup in the Assiniboine River. Campground buildings required complete renovation and refurbishing, electrical facilities had to be replaced, culverts restored, roads repaired, and facilities put back in order. Most of the campground was re-opened for visitation shortly after the May long weekend.

- Turtle Mountain & Duck Mountain Provincial Parks and campsites in the Porcupine Mountains were hit by a severe windstorm in the spring. Blow down trees covered and damaged facilities. Most facilities were cleaned up enough for use early in the season.

- As consequence of the heavy rains on already high soil moisture levels in spring 2005, the main road at Asessippi Park incurred a slump of sufficient severity to require closure of the road. Visitor traffic was re-routed over service roads for the remainder of the summer. Repairs were started in fall 2005.

- Construction was completed for release of 25 cottage lots at Childs Lake and six lots at Singush Lake in Duck Mountain Provincial Park.

- Construction was completed in large part on 28 electrical/water campsites at Lake Adam in Turtle Mountain Provincial Park, 10 electrical campsites at Rivers campground, and a handful of campsites at Asessippi campground.

- Electrical service was installed to 10 Yurt sites at Spruce Woods and six Yurt sites at Asessippi. Purchase of construction materials, base preparation, and other work for the Yurts began at both parks.

- Construction started on a modern washroom at the Spruce Woods Yurt site.

- Beach Safety signing was essentially completed at all western region park beaches. Most beach buoy deligniation systems were installed.

- Most park water system operators were trained to a basic level according to requirements of the new Drinking Water requirements. Many also received training towards their certification in water distribution, wastewater collection and wastewater treatment.

- Construction started on a new modern washroom at Blue Lake Campground in Duck Mountain Provincial Park.

- Pump house improvements were made at Blue Lake in Duck Mountain Provincial Park.

- Waterfront risk assessments were completed on park beaches in the region.

Forestry

Western Region Forestry Staff completed the following tasks in 2005/06 operating year:

- Coordinated and completed regional review of the Louisiana-Pacific (LP) 2005-06 Annual Operating Plan (AOP) and the Mountain Quota Holders Association (MQHA) 2005-06 AOP.

- Coordinated and completed mitigation process for the LP 2006-07 AOP and the MQHA 2006-07 AOP.

- Issued 66 Work Permits for commercial timber harvest on 171 harvest blocks and 12 work permits for renewal related activity in the Mountain Forest Section. This represents a considerable streamlining of the work permit

process for the Forest Industry.

- In conjunction with district offices, there were 372 timber permits issued for approximately 12,000 m^3 of timber in the Western Region.

- Staff continues to play a key role in the development and implementation of Forestry Branch Timber Management Programs in the region, including: chipperwood measurements, electronic load slip tracking, FML check scaling trial (e.g. cull and defect at LP mills).

- Regional Forestry Operations staff planned and implemented:
  - Planting of 1,139,000 Spruce and Pine seedlings in the Mountain Forest Section.
  - Site Prepared 158.8 ha of harvested area in preparation for tree planting.
  - Snow cached 453,240 conifer seedlings for spring plant in 2006.

- In conjunction with Forestry Branch:
  Renewed timber sale agreements and permitted two harvest timber sales for 6,000m^3 awarded to Swampy Cree Tribal Council in the Porcupine Provincial Forest.

- Work with the Protected Area Program to finalize and organize announcement of Birch River and Armit Meadows Ecological Reserves.

Wildlife

- The Bears and Bees project in the Ethelbert area continues. Six outfitters maintain 20 electric fences around chronic beeyard depredation sites. Nuisance bear harvest is significantly reduced and no fences were breached by bears.

- A deer population survey was conducted in the Duck Mountain area in 2006 producing an estimate of 5,471 deer. An elk survey flown of the same area in 2005 produced an elk population estimate of 1,670 elk. Plans are on-going for a moose survey to be conducted of the Duck Mountains for 2006. There are 14 GPS collared cow elk in the Duck Mountain area and wildlife staff conducts monthly aerial location surveys to track their movements.

- Problem Beaver Program was successful and welcomed by rural municipalities and registered trappers. The winter season was extended to cover beaver issues in the spring.

- Coyote population remained high with a significant number of complaints received. A problem predator program was continued in co-operation with Manitoba Agricultural Services Corporation and the Manitoba Trappers Association to assist cattle producers. Major problem areas include the Ethelbert, Roblin and Neepawa areas

- A new Wildlife Bovine Tuberculosis Manager was hired and positioned in Dauphin to work with regional staff to deliver the field implementation of a Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) eradication strategy. This strategy was developed by the TB Task group, comprised of Parks Canada, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives and Manitoba Conservation. This initiative included a barrier fencing program; 34 fences were installed using aboriginal contractors; expanded hunting seasons; enhanced "no baiting" regulations and increased sampling of elk and white-tailed deer in the Riding Mountain TB eradication zone. Wildlife staff worked closely with district Natural Resource Officers conducting aerial and ground surveillance for illegal baiting and feeding of wildlife in Game Hunting Area 23/23A around Riding Mountain National Park.

- Planning is underway to designate a portion of the Pembina Valley as an Important Bird Area with a focus on raptor migration.

- Cooperation continued with local landowners in the grazing demonstration projects on selected Wildlife Management Areas (WMA).

- Discussions were initiated between the Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch and Western Region wildlife staff and Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Shilo regarding endangered species recovery planning for CFB Shilo and

the surrounding area. An environmental assessment is being planned for CFB Shilo due to the change in field operations since the arrival of the 2nd Battalion of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

- Assistance and information relative to wildlife and bio-diversity in general was provided to the Little Saskatchewan River and the Turtle Mountain Conservation Districts in developing management plans for watersheds within the districts.

Lands

- A preliminary regional site selection list for the ongoing provincial cottaging initiative was continued in 2005. Existing and new subdivisions have been advertised on the internet/intranet. Additional lots were allocated by public draw in the spring of 2005 at George Lake, Lake of the Prairies, Woods Creek, Red Deer River and Whitefish Lake. Additional cottage subdivisions were entered into the development process in late 2005 at Dropmore West, Mitchell's East, The Narrows and Shoal Lake for draw in 2006.

- Crown and municipal land exchanges are still ongoing in an effort to complete the Duck Mountain Provincial Forest expansion.

Environment

- The Town of Neepawa liquid waste provisions coupled with Springhill Farms continues to be monitored pending construction of an appropriately sized treatment facility to accommodate the demand.

- Staff continues to monitor the progress and the public health and environmental issues respecting the proposed development of a fire hall and police office at First and Rosser in Brandon.

- Staff continues to work with local abattoirs and producers on the disposal of offal & carcasses within the region.

- Onsite Waste Management Systems Installed:
  142 Holding Tanks, 88 Tanks and Fields, 89 Tank and Ejectors, 33 Tank replacements, 4 Septage Fields, Total revenue $33,812.00

- Regional staff responded to 13 emergency environmental incidents in 2005/06.

- Foodsafe continues to be administered by Assiniboine Community College with Public Health Inspectors delivering programs in Neepawa, Virden, Deloraine, Carberry, Dauphin, Russell, Swan River, and Hamiota with approximately 455 food handlers becoming certified.

- Staff participated with the Emergency Measures Organization and related agencies in six environmental training exercises to assist in better accident response and handling of dangerous goods that may be involved in an incident.

- In this past fiscal year there were a total of 77 Written Warnings, 13 Common Offence Notices, 8 Director Orders served.

Environmental Livestock Program

- Total of 31 enforcement actions (warnings, environment officer orders, director's orders, summon and common offence notices) were issued

- 85 call outs (public complaints/industry notification/agency notification) were received

- 101 annual and construction inspections of manure storages were completed

- Six permits were issued for the construction, expansion or modification of manure storage facilities

- One permit was issued to an expanding cattle confinement area
- 13 technical review reports were conducted on new or expanding operations
- 55 applications for the *Registration of a Manure Storage Facility Without a Permit* have been received by the Western Region to date.

Table RO.20
12.3(f) Western Region

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	4,704.8	86.39	4,758.4	(53.6)	
Other Expenditures	1,446.2		1,416.6	29.6	
Total 12.3(f)	**6,151.0**	**86.39**	**6,175.0**	**(24.0)**	

Red River Region

The Red River Region is comprised primarily of urban and agricultural land uses. Although the region still contains some limited natural, undeveloped areas, the majority of the land base has been significantly altered by human occupation.

Over 60% of Manitoba population resides in the Red River Region. In addition to the large number of light and heavy industrial operations located in the region, agricultural industry such as livestock operations also play a major economic role in the region. Major programs associated with the above described activities administered by the region include Public Health, Environment Act and The Transportation of Dangerous Goods licences enforcement, Contaminated Sites, Petroleum Storage, On-Site Wastewater, Solid Waste Management, and Livestock Operations. St. Malo Provincial Park is the third busiest park in the province in terms of visitors per night.

The Red River Region has a Regional Office in Winnipeg and District Offices at Portage La Prairie, Steinbach, Winkler, Manitou, Morris and Winnipeg.

The following key activities were carried out in 2005/06.

Enforcement

- Approximately 1800 Occurrence Reports were received, of which approximately 826 calls were about problem wildlife and about 400 required enforcement action. The remainder, about 530 calls, was for fire suppression and other non-enforcement resource management issues.
- Of Officers' time commitment, about 34.3% was spent on regulatory activities, 31.1% on resource management, fires and other community services, 22.8% was spent on administration, 6.7% on officer development/training and 5.1% on problem wildlife.

Provincial Parks

- The campground at the St. Malo provincial Park was closed for approximately 7 weeks in June and July due to extensive flooding caused by severe rains.

- A new campground office was constructed at St. Ambroise Provincial Park.

- Staff initiated 129 prosecutions and 108 warnings under resource legislation and effected 48 evictions under the Provincial Park regulations.

- There were 19 of 20 crown land lots sold at the St. Malo cottage subdivision in the Red River Region. The road construction for this subdivision is scheduled for summer 2006.

Wildlife

- Staff inventoried Wildlife Management Area in the Manitou District and successfully resolved several long standing land use issues.

- Several cougar sightings were reported in the Pembina Valley.

Environment

- Public Health Inspectors in the Winnipeg District inspected and issued permits for over 1600 food service establishments, 200 swimming pools, 200 day cares, 12 body modification establishments, and over 200 temporary food service operations for events such as the Red River Exhibition, Folkorama and Festival du Voyageur.

- Public Health Inspectors in the Winnipeg District collaborated with the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority in the development of a Regional Communicable Disease Control Manual and Protocol.

- Public Health Inspectors in the Winnipeg District participated in several pandemic planning seminars, helping Manitoba Health and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority develop emergency response procedures in the event of an influenza pandemic.

- Regional Public Health Inspectors in concert with the Medical Officer of Health developed and implemented a Pseudomonas A monitoring program for swimming pools.

- Forty-three 43 new permits were issued for the construction, expansion or modification of livestock manure storage facilities; and 232 inspections of new and existing manure storage facilities were conducted.

- The region processed 469 registrations for private onsite sewage management systems.

- Due to gasoline contamination concern in the community of Grosse Isle and Oakville, private wells sampling program is on going.

- Regional staff continue to work with and assist local municipalities in areas related to solid waste management and waste water management. This includes waste disposal ground closures, establishment of transfer stations, emergency discharges from sewage lagoons and the establishment of new waste water management facilities.

- The region was involved in the review of 36 applications for funding of Waste Reduction and Pollution Prevention projects, 29 of the applications were approved with a total funding grant of $430,200.00. The region also participated in the technical review of applications for Sustainable Development Innovation Funding.

- Housing issues throughout the region is increasing and demand significant staff time/involvement. Activities include inspection, responding to complaints, issuing of orders, and placarding (condemning) of unsanitary dwellings. The number of complaints received for substandard housing conditions, especially related to mould, continue to increase.

Table RO.21
12.3(g) Red River Region

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	3,285.5	57.39	3,374.8	(89.3)	
Other Expenditures	932.7		873.7	59.0	
Total 12.3(g)	**4,218.2**	**57.39**	**4,248.5**	**(30.3)**	

Fire Program

The 2005 fire season was well below average for fires and area burned with 248 fires burning 70,035.1 hectares (the 20-year average is 560 fires with 460,296 hectares burned). Lightning fires accounted for 138 fires burning 64,290.2 hectares with 110 human caused fires burning 5,544.9 hectares.

A cool damp spring followed by a cool June kept fire activity at low levels. The first two weeks in July were busy with high levels of fire activity in the Leaf Rapids and Gillam areas. The rain returned in late July followed by a cool August.

Low pressure systems dominated the weather patterns throughout the summer of 2005 with above average rainfall at all stations. Winter freeze up occurred with high levels of soil moisture throughout the province.

Air Attack:

- Fire program used seven CL-215 water bombers, three Cessna 310 Bird Dog aircraft, two single engine Otter aircraft and one Twin Otter aircraft operated by Manitoba Government Air Services. The two single Otters have been refitted with turbine engines and a Twin Otter was purchased and online this spring. In addition, the province seasonally contracts one - Bell 206 Long Ranger, one - Bell 204 and three - Bell 205 helicopters from private operators. Through Standing Offers, the Program casually charters additional helicopters, Air Tractor 802 Single Engine Air Tankers (SEATS) and fixed-wing aircraft as required.

- Air operations staff continued to work closely with Manitoba Aerial Applicator Operators (Single Engine Air Tankers) to enhance their capability to deliver long-term fire retardant. There is a need, during spring ice breakup, to have an air tanker resource when the ice prevents refilling water bombers from lakes. Last year, at times, this program employed up to five aircraft and four forward attack bases. These Single Engine Air Tankers have become a core supplement to the government owned aircraft.

Training:

- Work continued on training staff on the Canadian Incident Command System (ICS). Over 500 staff have now received the orientation I-100 course while 223 have received the basic I-200 course and 43 staff have received the intermediate I-300 course.

- An S-330 Sector/Taskforce Leader Course was held in the spring for 39 staff members. This course met the basic training requirements for Sector/Taskforce Leaders as per the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC) training standards.

- A new Type II EFF (Emergency Fire Fighter) training program was implemented. This year, 90 new Type II EFF's were trained to meet CIFFC training standards. Type II training is more advanced than the regular Type III EFF training.

- A new EFF certification database was developed to manage EFF training and certification. This database will assist with planning and implementation of EFF training as well as provide currency status.

- Wildfire prevention mirrored last year's and consisted of spring radio and newspaper fire prevention advertising as well as advertising in the Manitoba Anglers Guide and other publications. As spring progressed and the fire danger levels increased, fire prevention radio spots were played on many southern and northern radio stations. The one-minute fire prevention radio spot was spoken by an Elder for a First Nations audience on the Native Communications Radio Network. Handout items included litterbags, fridge magnets and Smokey the Bear items. Assistance was provided to the Parks Branch children's workbook as well.

Operations:

- It was an unusually slow fire season with the busiest period occurring during the first two weeks of July. There were no critical resource shortages or imports during the 2005 fire season. There were no operational challenges experienced.

- Several aircraft, personnel and equipment deployments were exported to assist other national fire agencies through the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre Mutual Aid Agreement as well as border cooperation air tanker quick strikes to Saskatchewan, Ontario and Minnesota.

- There were four resource deployments to Quebec, seven into Ontario and one into Saskatchewan and Minnesota respectively.

- The provincial Initial Attack Preparedness System was reviewed and updated for use in 2006. This resulted in the updating of the Fire Program Policy Directive as well as the Escaped Fire Analysis Guideline.

Equipment:

- Manitoba Fire Program is providing all fire line staff with coveralls and two piece outfits that are manufactured and certified to the Canadian General Standards Board CAN/CGSB 155.22-97 standard for fire line work wear. A refurbishment program for fire line garments is also in place.

- The provincial pump parts program for Mark 3 fire pumps is resulting in parts standardization and availability as well as reduction in purchases and cost savings. All Mark 3 pumps slated for write off are sent to a central location and are either refurbished or used for parts.

Science & Technology:

- The weather and mapping section continued the development of fire site mapping tools for Garmin GPS units. Ongoing automation continues for intranet fire maps and sharing of fire and weather data with other U.S. and Canadian fire agencies.

- The fire program continues to use Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) satellite data for both daily monitoring of large no action fires as well as post-season mapping of fires in the far north.

- Preparatory site development work was done for new weather station sites at Atik Lake as well as Sassaginigak River.

Table RO.22
2005 – Number of Fires and Area Burned by Region and Cause

CAUSE	Northeast		Northwest		Western		Interlake		Eastern		Red River		Province	
	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	area burned (hectares)
recreation	14	415.6	3	1.2	1	0.1	2	0.6	1	0.5			**21**	**418.0**
settlement	8	3.0			4	8.7	1	8.2	4	9.2			**17**	**29.1**
woods operations					1	2.0							**1**	**2.0**
other industry			1	0.1	1	0.1			2	1.6			**4**	**1.8**
railroads	4	2.0	1	0.1					1	24.2			**6**	**26.3**
public projects									2	0.2			**2**	**0.2**
incendiary	10	8.4	8	10.6			5	354.3	11	51.2	1	2,563.4	**35**	**2,987.9**
miscellaneous	8	1,701.5	4	0.4	1	5.0	5	299.5	3	12.0			**21**	**2,018.4**
agricultural							1	38.8	1	20.4	1	2.0	**3**	**61.2**
lightning	107	64,412.8	18	63.4	4	5.0	1	0.3	8	8.7			**138**	**64,490.2**
all causes	151	66,543.3	35	75.8	12	20.9	15	701.7	33	128.0	2	2,565.4	248	70,035.1

Note: In the 2005 fire season 237 wildfires burning 54,286.5 hectares were identified by department staff. Post season investigation of hotspot data from the MODIS satellite revealed an additional 11 lightning fires that burned 15,748.6 hectares in the white zone. The Fire Program has been using this new method of data collection since 2003 to augment areas burned in the white zone that are not detected by conventional means. These fires have been added into the totals for an official number of 248 fires burning 70,035.1 hectares for the 2005 fire season.

Table RO.23
2005 – Number of Fires and Area Burned by Priority Zone and Action Status

	Actioned Fires			No Action Fires			Limited Action Fires			All Fires		
ZONE	# fires	% fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	% fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	% fires	area burned (hectares)	# fires	% fires	area burned (hectares)
RED	127	60.77%	3,955.7				3	25.0%	8.4	130	52.42%	3,964.1
YELLOW	4	1.91%	5.4							4	1.61%	5.4
GREEN	74	35.41%	15,333.1	4	14.81%	1,627.7	6	50.0%	12,003.1	84	33.87%	28,963.9
WHITE	4	1.91%	519.2	23	85.19%	32,854.4	3	25.0%	3,728.1	30	12.10%	37,101.7
ALL ZONES	209	100.0%	19,813.4	27	100.0%	34,482.1	12	100.0%	15,739.6	248	100.0%	70,035.1

Note: In the 2005 fire season 237 wildfires burning 54,286.5 hectares were identified by department staff. Post season investigation of hotspot data from the MODIS satellite revealed an additional 11 lightning fires that burned 15,748.6 hectares in the white zone. The Fire Program has been using this new method of data collection since 2003 to augment areas burned in the white zone that are not detected by conventional means.These fires have been added into the totals for an official number of 248 fires burning 70,035.1 hectares for the 2005 fire season.

Red Zone	Full fire suppression
Yellow Zone	Suppression if resources available
Green Zone	Suppression if resources available
White Zone	No suppression unless values are at risk.

Table RO.24
2005 – Area Burned by Priority Zone

	Total Zonal Area	Hectares Burned	% of Area Burned
Red	11,415,663.5	3,955.7	0.035
Yellow	685,691.0	5.4	0.001
Green	9,770,018.8	15,333.1	0.157
White	23,081,244.9	519.2	0.002
All Zones	44,952,618.2	**19,813.4**	**0.195**

Figure 3.

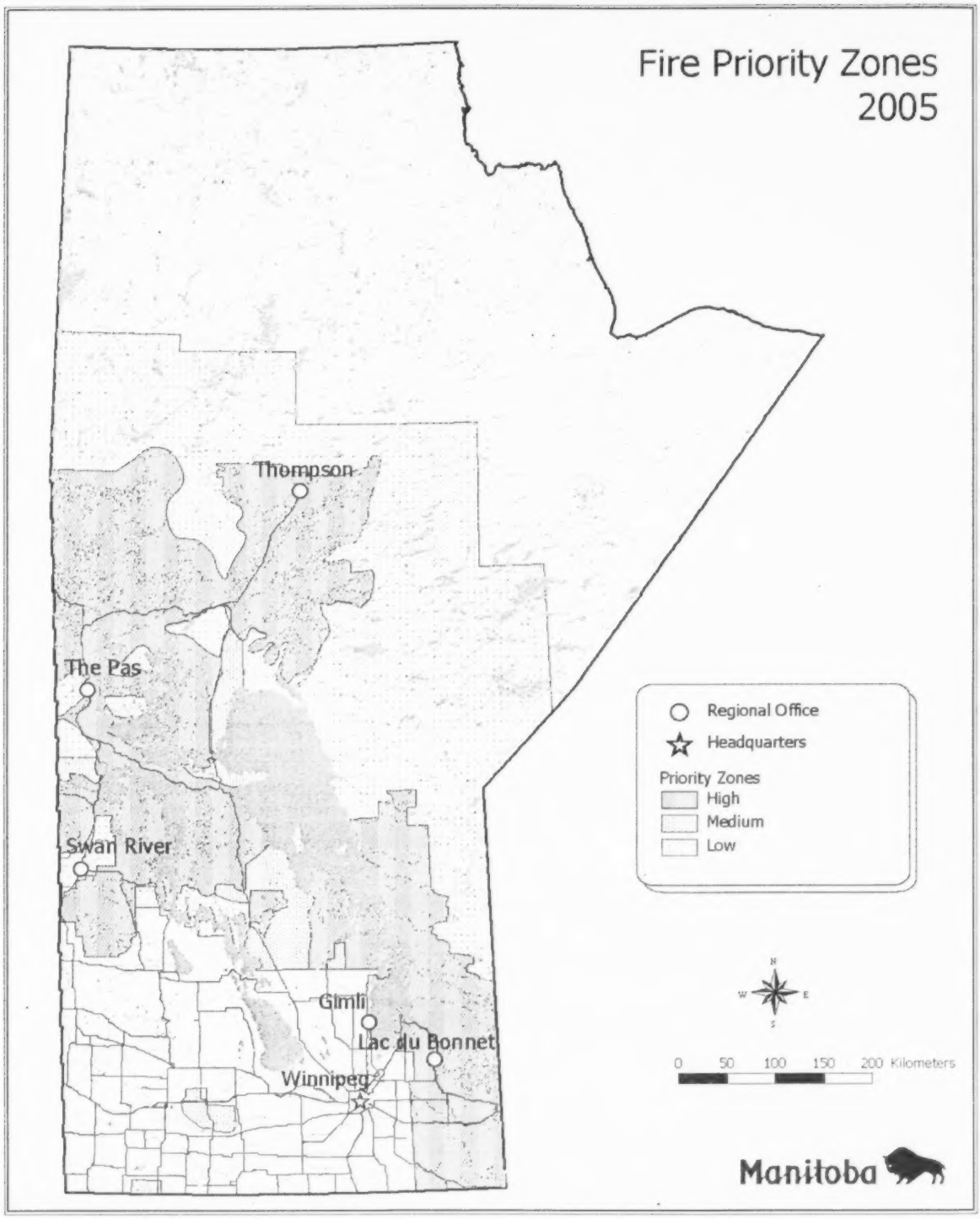

Fire Priority Zones
2005
Thompson
The Pas
Swan River
Gimli
Lac du Bonnet
Winnipeg
Regional Office
Headquarters
Priority Zones
High
Medium
Low
N
W
E
S
0 50 100 150 200 Kilometers
Manitoba

Figure 4. Number of Fires, 1996-2005

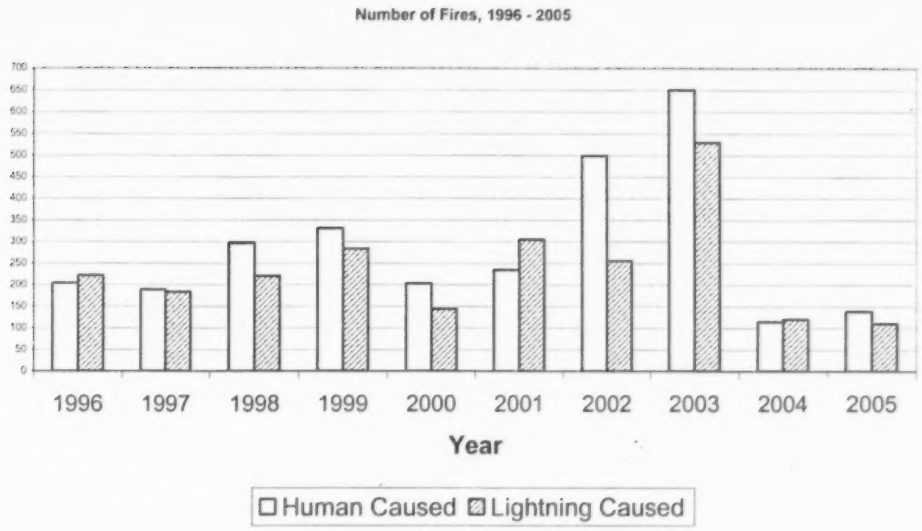
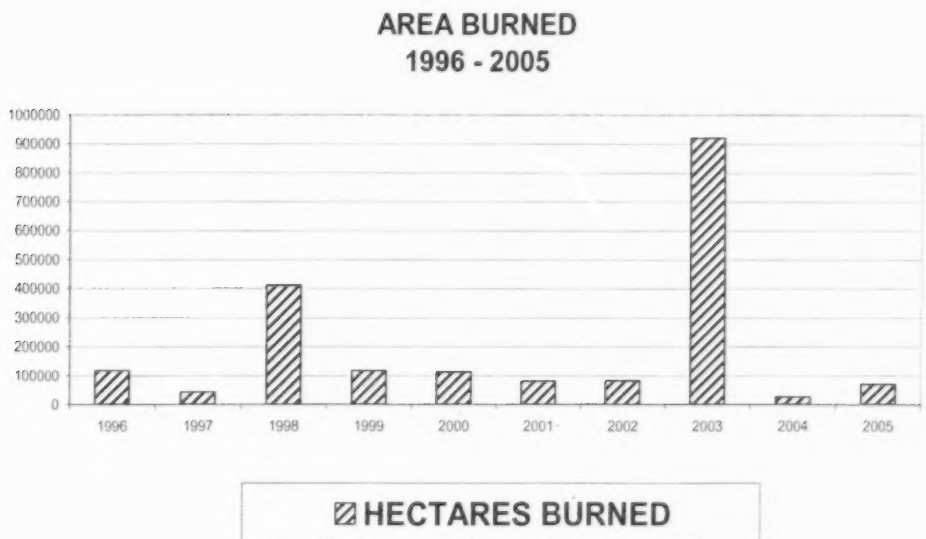


Figure 5. Area Burned, 1996-2005



Environmental Emergency Response Team

- The Emergency Response Program received over 3,500 calls to the Emergency Response 24-hour line. Of these, 611 were handled directly by the Department's Emergency Response Team and/or Regional personnel. The remainder, were not within the Department's mandate and were directed to the appropriate outside agencies for action.

- The Department continued to upgrade and refresh the training of the Emergency Response Team and Regional personnel. Courses include National Fire Protection Association 472 Technicians Level Hazardous Materials Responder, Incident Command, Chemical/Biological/Radiological/Nuclear (CBRN) basic and intermediate training. Various other training initiatives were made available to the response Program personnel to upgrade their skill sets.

- The Emergency Response Team assists Police Forces with removal and disposal of chemicals found at clandestine drug operations / marijuana grow operations, and helps evaluate the extent of contamination at the site for remediation purposes. The Emergency Response Team has been actively involved in training and preparedness for Chemical/Biological/Radiological/Nuclear (CBRN) terrorism response in Manitoba.

- The Environmental Accident Reporting Regulation has been redrafted for amendment and after a round of consultation with interested parties. This regulation will expand the reporting requirements for environmental accidents to include contaminants previously not listed for reporting. It will bring the reporting requirements in Manitoba in line with Federal Canadian Environmental Protection Act, and Transportation of Dangerous Goods reporting requirements.

Table RO.25
Environmental Accidents

Total number of calls received	3,521
Total number of incidents reported	611
Breakdown of incidents by accident type:	
Transport-related	115
Spills during product handling	68
Equipment failure	137
Miscellaneous	291

Table RO.26
12.3(h) Fire Program

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	5,699.3	58.69	5,503.1	196.2	
Other Expenditures	8,691.6		8,806.1	(114.5)	
Total 12.3(h)	**14,390.9**	**58.69**	**14,309.2**	**81.7**	

Environmental Programs

Environmental Programs Branch directs and co-ordinates livestock operations support, dangerous goods program, contaminated sites program and public health program in the field through operational guidelines, development of policy and procedures, and liaison with environmental regional offices and external agencies.

Environmental Livestock Operations Program

The primary objective of the Environmental Livestock Program is to ensure consistent administration of the *Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation* across the province. This program is supported by the development of procedures, protocols and standards for application by regionally based staff. Regional responsibilities include regular inspection of storage facilities for manure and mortalities, inspection of manure storage facilities during construction, investigation of complaints, response to reports of manure spills and enforcement of regulations.

The following key activities were carried out in 2005/06.

A total of 483 manure management plans (MMPs) were processed and registered, continuing the trend of annual increases in the number of MMPs registered. The 2005 MMP audit program included 53 operations, or approximately 10% of operations with registered MMPs. This figure also includes a small number of audited operations that had not previously filed an MMP. MMPs are an effective tool for ensuring the sustainability of livestock production by requiring prior-to-spreading calculation of the rate of manure application that is agronomically appropriate and environmentally sound.

The requirement for monitoring of source water quality pertains to all operations with 300 or more animal units. Since these are the same operations that are required to register MMPs annually, all operations in the MMP database that had not submitted source water analysis to the department were sent reminder letters. Additionally, a number of the producer organizations also notified their members in the form of newsletter articles. Approximately two thirds of the operations had complied with the new requirements by December 31, 2005. New submissions of source water monitoring data continue to be received.

Registration of manure storage facilities that were constructed prior to regulatory requirements for permits became mandatory with the March 30, 2004 regulation amendment. The registration process provides a way to have the environmental performance of these older facilities inspected and assessed regularly. Applications for registration of approximately 285 facilities have been received. The applications are being processed, which includes assessment of environmental sensitivity and prioritization for inspection.

There were 20 manure spills reported to staff during 2005. Most spills were relatively minor and many involved failures in couplings or sections of manure pipelines during pumping. Instructions that have been issued to operators should reduce the frequency of this type of occurrence in the future. There were no environmentally significant manure spills during the year. All spills were properly cleaned-up and none pose a long-term risk to the environment.

The Manitoba Phosphorus Expert Committee (MPEC) was established in 2003. MPEC had been tasked with reviewing the scientific literature on manure sources of phosphorus as well as the legislative practices of other jurisdictions. The Committee then was to provide advice to the Minister on regulating phosphorus from livestock operations in Manitoba. The MPEC report was completed and released in January, 2006. A formal consultation process on regulating phosphorus was undertaken jointly with Water Stewardship, Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade, and Manitoba Agriculture Food and Rural Initiatives during the months of February and March, 2006. The consultation included a series of open houses, presentations and public workshops held in Gimli, Brandon, Winkler, Swan River, Dauphin, Winnipeg, Lac du Bonnet, Steinbach and Friedensfeld. Based on the recommendations of the MPEC and the consultation with those persons affected by manure application, the Minister recommended to the Lieutenant Governor in Council that the regulation be amended.

- Table RO.1 summarizes enforcement of environmental livestock regulations since 1998. Most commonly committed offences that warranted action continue to involve improper disposal or storage of mortalities and the spillage, escape or improper storage of manure.

Extension efforts continue to be a priority for the program. Staff take every opportunity to meet with or otherwise contact livestock producers, producer organizations, environmental advocacy groups, other government agencies and the general public to communicate regulatory requirements. Visit the web site at http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/regoperations/livestock/index.html.

Table RO.27
12.3(i) Livestock Operations Support

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	301.1	5.00	353.3	(52.2)	1.
Other Expenditures	351.3		661.2	(309.9)	
Total 12.3(i)	**652.4**	**5.00**	**1,014.5**	**(362.1)**	

1. Under expenditure is due to delay in Livestock Program implementation as a result of delay in enactment of Livestock Manure and Mortalities Regulation.

Environmental Operations

Petroleum Storage Program

- The Petroleum Storage Program manages the installation, alteration, removal and testing of regulated petroleum storage facilities, which include gas bars, fuel distribution facilities, vehicle repair and oil change facilities, agricultural producers, among others. There are 4,830 storage sites in Manitoba that are or have previously been registered with Manitoba Conservation. These include active facilities, inactive facilities and locations at which the storage tanks and associated piping have been removed (dismantled sites). Of these sites:
  - 2,273 sites are active
    - 1,588 sites have a permit to operate (required as of April 1, 2006)
    - 685 sites have not applied for a permit, are not regulated under provincial jurisdiction, or are listed as inactive
  - 236 sites are listed as inactive
  - 2,321 sites have been successfully decommissioned since 1976

- 31 permits to construct new storage facilities were issued in 2005/06

- The implementation of Licensing of Petroleum Technicians began as of December 29, 2003. Only Licensed Petroleum Technicians may construct, alter, remove or perform certain tests on petroleum storage facilities. Prospective technicians must meet specific criteria which includes both in-class studies and field experience. Currently there are 109 Petroleum Technicians licensed in Manitoba.

Contaminated/Impacted Sites Program

- All identified sites with contamination greater than lowest applicable guideline values, including those not designated as Contaminated Sites, are tracked to ensure public safety and health and environmental protection. There are 2,088 sites in the Manitoba Sites Database, seven of which have been designated as contaminated under ***The Contaminated Sites Remediation Act***.

- Coordinated training for regional Environment Officers, including health risk assessment training, assisted regions in the review of remedial action plans, environmental site assessments, sampling protocol and closure letters and provided engineering and technical expertise to regions and other departments and agencies.

- Staff participated on the CCME Soil Quality Guidelines Task Group and the CCME Sub-committee on the Protocol for the Derivation of Soil Quality Guidelines, Modeling Parameters.

- The branch published and distributed Information Bulletin 2004-02E *Comparison of Investigation Results Manitoba Criteria BTEX* to regional offices, consultants and clients and made a presentation on the guideline to Manitoba Environmental Industries Association.

- Researched and complied a list of sites for the Environmental Liabilities Checklist which is required to establish an amount for reporting of this financial liability for the first time in 2005/06.

- The branch provided extensive input to specific regional projects: Former Brandon Scrap (Brandon), 5285 Henderson Highway (Selkirk), Grace Asbestos (Winnipeg), Garson (Lac du Bonnet), West Hawk Lake (Lac du Bonnet), Mac's Selkirk (Selkirk), and 35 Sutherland Ave. (Winnipeg).

Hazardous Waste Program

- During 2005/06, 371 Hazardous Waste Registration forms were processed.

- More than 6,000 active hazardous waste generator registrations are in the Manitoba Conservation database.

- Approximately 30,700 manifest copies were submitted to the Hazardous Waste Program; this translates into approximately 15,350 manifests (shipping documents for the "cradle to grave" tracking system for hazardous waste). Eight hazardous waste transporter licence applications, three used oil collection depot licence applications and three used oil space heaters licence applications were processed.

- Forty-eight applications were processed for the disposal of waste materials containing polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB).

Transportation of Dangerous Goods Program

- In 2005, there were approximately 100 enforcement staff, including RCMP, Highways Compliance Officers, Environment Officers, and City of Winnipeg Police, with the responsibility of enforcing the Transportation of Dangerous Goods regulations in Manitoba.

- Enforcement includes regular on-highway inspections at weigh scales, and special enforcement operations such as 24 hour blitzes, road check programs, and random inspection roadblocks.

Onsite Wastewater Management Systems Program

- The Onsite Wastewater Management Systems (OWMS) program receives approximately 1,700 applications for an OWMS to be installed in Manitoba each year. A requirement of the regulation is that installers must be certified and haulers must be registered by our department. As part of certification, installers have to successfully complete the OWMS Red River College course. To date approximately 290 installers have completed the OWMS Red River College course and have been certified and 151 sewage haulers have registered with the department. The certification and registration are each valid for five years.

- A Homeowner's Manual for OWMS; a guide to the installation, use and care of onsite wastewater management systems, was developed and distributed to regional offices for the public.

- Program development over the past year concentrated on:
  - Working in conjunction with Manitoba Water Stewardship for the evaluation of OWMS and hydraulic loading.
  - Presentations to the municipal agencies on the scope of the regulation.

- Assisting Red River College in the delivery of the OWMS course throughout Manitoba.
- Participating in meetings with Canadian Standards Association and Canadian Water and Waste Association to develop a national standard for OWMS.
- Development of Supplementary Information for Onsite Wastewater Management System Installations to permit alternative type disposal fields in a variety of soil types was developed and distributed to contractors and staff.
- Reviewing new technologies for application in Manitoba and when approved, variances to use the new products were issued to the companies by the director.

Public Health Program

- Through its Public Health Inspection program the department continues to protect the public health and safety of the citizens of Manitoba and its visitors and respond to public health emergencies and issues. The department, through its public health inspection staff and regulations under ***The Public Health Act***, carries out an extensive compliance and enforcement program in many areas that are directly linked to public health and safety.

- In addition, the department's Public Health Inspectors work closely with Manitoba Health and the Medical Officers of Health in each of the Regional Health Authorities as well as the Drinking Water Officers within the Department of Water Stewardship.

- Recognizing the importance of the Public Health Program to the citizens of Manitoba, the department has implemented a Public Health Inspector Student Bursary Program to encourage prospective candidates to complete their educational requirements for certification by the Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors for future employment with the department as Public Health Inspectors.

- The major public health activities are in such program areas as:

    - Food services and food handling establishments inspection and compliance program
        - Investigation of food borne illness incidences
        - Enforcement of the provisions of ***The Non Smokers Health Protection Act***
        - Swimming pool and whirlpool inspection and compliance program
        - Communicable disease investigations
        - Investigation of unsanitary conditions, particularly in the area of housing
        - Inspection of daycares, nursery schools, residential care facilities and recreational camps
        - Response to issues and problems associated with semi-public and private water supplies
        - Enforcement of a number of City of Winnipeg By-laws in the areas of food premises, housing, tattoo parlors, derelict vehicles and litter.

The department currently has 27 Public Health Inspectors including supervisory staff located in 11 regional and district offices throughout the province.

Table RO.28

12.3(j) Environment Operations

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	622.4	10.00	619.4	3.0	
Other Expenditures	75.3		60.0	15.3	
Total 12.3(j)	**697.7**	**10.00**	**679.4**	**18.3**	

CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Divisional Administration

Divisional administration provides strategic management of Manitoba's natural resources and environment (parks, lands, forests, wildlife and air) in keeping with the principles of sustainable development. This includes promotion of pollution prevention activities and special projects such as the decommissioning of the Whiteshell Nuclear Research Laboratories and administering to Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Initiative.

Conservation Programs Division comprises:

- Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Initiative
- Parks and Natural Areas Branch
- Air Quality Section
- Forestry Branch
- Habitat Enhancement Fund
- Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch
- Special Conservation and Endangered Species Fund
- Pollution Prevention Branch
- Lands Branch

Table CP.1
12.4(a) Divisional Administration

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	161.9	2.00	187.0	(25.1)	
Other Expenditures	369.1		389.0	(19.9)	
Total 12.4(a)	**531.0**	**2.00**	**576.0**	**(45.0)**	

Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Initiative

The Initiative continued to support wildlife and habitat management projects with funds from a special impost on hunting licences. Hunter-funded projects included:

- A hunting heritage program that supported organizations and events that promote hunting.

- Support for mentored youth hunting events that provide an educational experience to encourage hunting among Manitoba's youth. The purpose is to introduce youth to the concepts of ethical utilization and stewardship of waterfowl and other natural resources, encourage youth and adults to experience the outdoors together and to contribute to the long-term conservation and management of game birds. Mentored hunting events are available for waterfowl and wild turkeys.

- The Chambers/Colomb Assistantships provided financial assistance to two university students for the following projects:
  - Gull Hazards to Aircraft – Greater Winnipeg Area
  - Deer Overabundance in Birds Hill Park

- Development of land management strategies such as forestry plans and practices to prevent the loss of threatened boreal woodland caribou. Some animals from selected ranges are equipped with GPS and VHF

radio collars to enable biologists to monitor movement and thereby identify critical ranges. Data are used to identify habitat preferences and examine mechanisms for cycling habitat with the objective being to have habitat available for the future.

- Monitoring urban goose populations within Winnipeg and implementing measures to reduce conflicts between people and geese.

- Aerial surveys of moose, elk and white-tailed deer were conducted in Manitoba Game Hunting Areas 8, 18, 18A to 18C, 21, 25, 25B and 26. In addition, a survey for white-tailed deer was conducted in the city of Winnipeg in habitats immediately adjacent to the perimeter highway.

- Activities to maintain and enhance wildlife management areas (WMAs). This involved upkeep on the signage that identifies the boundary of WMAs, restoration of habitat for sharp-tailed grouse, and ongoing control of noxious weeds.

- Support to the Canadian Co-operative Wildlife Health Centre that provides diagnostic services and valuable wildlife disease information and management advice.

Table WH.1

12.4(b) Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Initiative

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Other Expenditures	208.0		225.0	(17.0)	
Total 12.4(b)	**208.0**		**225.0**	**(17.0)**	

Parks & Natural Areas

Parks and Natural Areas Branch is responsible for Provincial Parks, Ecological Reserves and Canadian Heritage Rivers, managing these areas for the long-term benefit of Manitobans and the environment. These lands protect unique, representative or outstanding natural, cultural, and heritage features and resources, conserve ecosystems, and provide recreational and educational opportunities to over 5 million visitors each year. The Branch also has a prominent role in identification and establishment of other protected and natural areas.

Administration

The Administration Section is responsible for establishing strategic direction and guidelines, ensuring conformity to Department policies and government goals, and assessing the effectiveness of programs and services offered to the public. This section provides many functions including administrative and human resources support, capital budget coordination and the management of fees collected from Park users, commercial concessions, and leased properties. Work programs are reviewed to ensure that goals are met, and that expenditures conform to estimates, legislation, and policies. The Branch participates on the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board and the Canadian Parks Council. Grants were provided to the International Peace Garden, Manitoba Wildlife Foundation (upkeep and public programs at Fort Whyte Centre for Environmental Education), and Canadian Parks Council (for the promotion and management of parks).

Table PA.1
12.4(c)1 Administration

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	463.5	4.00	415.5	48.0	
Other Expenditures	320.3		349.1	(28.8)	
Grant Assistance	258.7		258.7	0.0	
Total 12.4(c)1	**1,042.5**	**4.00**	**1,023.3**	**19.2**	

Planning and Development

The Planning and Development Section prepares land-use plans, development plans, policies, and regulations to guide establishment, management, and development of the Park system, to:

- Conserve ecosystems and maintain biodiversity;
- Preserve unique and representative natural, cultural and heritage resources; and
- Provide outdoor recreational and educational opportunities and experiences in a natural setting.

The Section guides establishment and management of new Provincial Parks and Ecological Reserves. It manages the Canadian Heritage Rivers program in Manitoba and co-ordinates provincial input to national park establishment initiatives. The Section undertakes environmental licensing and land use allocation reviews, completes park management plans and provides design services for the park system.

Over the 2005/06 year, staff from the section participated in additional programs both internal to the branch and to other agencies. Examples include:

- Support to the Protected Areas Initiative
- Support to the World Heritage Site proposal
- Participation on the Floodway Recreation Committee
- Reviewed the Park District Service Fee process

- Support and advice to the development of infrastructure across the park system
- Review of building and lot development proposals for leaseholders in the Hecla Heritage Village
- Review of development proposals related to the Hecla Resort and Spa

Park System Planning

This program is responsible for the planning of the Manitoba Provincial Park System. Park establishment and boundaries, classification and role, primary park goals and objectives and Land Use Categories are prepared through a consultation process involving the public, stakeholders, First Nations and government agencies. A major function at present is undertaking the review process required to confirm permanent designations for existing Park Reserves.

The following key activities were carried out in 2005/06.

- Evaluating the feasibility of amending the boundary of Whitemouth Falls Provincial Park to allow improved regional land use and designate new park land to protect Great Grey Owl habitat and conduct the public review process to seek comments on the proposal.

- Extending the Fisher Bay Park Reserve designation to provide additional time for the community to review options for final designation.

- Extending the Birch Island Park Reserve designation to provide additional time for the community to review options for final designation.

- Continue work with First Nations communities to confirm park goals and objectives related to the Chitek Lake and Grand Island Park Reserves.

- Undertaking final boundary reviews with the Rural Municipality of St Francois Xavier regarding the addition of river bottom forest land to Beaudry Provincial Park.

- Initiating review processes for Pemmican Island, Pelican Islands, Goose Islands, Sturgeon Bay and Kinwow Bay Park Reserves.

- Continuing to work on the preparation of a document outlining the entire provincial park system and confirming park classifications, land use categories and park goals and objectives for all parks currently in the system.

Management Planning

The following key activities were carried out in 2005/06.

The Provincial Parks Act requires creation of a management plan for each Park. Plans are working tools for managers in making decisions on major issues. Public involvement is integral to Plan preparation.

- A revised draft management plan for Duck Mountain Provincial Park was completed in 2005.

- Management planning for the park began several years ago with a series of public meetings. A Report on Public Comments was prepared in 2002 and a draft Management Plan was released in 2003. This was followed by a second series of public meetings and a second Report on Public Comments in 2004. The management plan contains guidelines for protecting natural areas and accommodating a range of recreational and development activities in Duck Mountain Provincial Park.

- The Atikaki Provincial Park management plan was revised to reflect its role in the World Heritage Site proposal.

- Continuation of the Spruce Woods Prairie Management Plan to ensure the environmental health of the mixed grass prairie sites within the park.

- Continued support for the caribou study at Grass River Provincial Park to determine critical habitats and caribou movement patterns.

- Continued support for the caribou habitat and population study on the east side of Lake Winnipeg, encompassing Nopiming and Atikaki Provincial Parks.

- Support of a study in Duck Mountain Provincial Park of impacts on trails from all terrain vehicles. This study was coordinated by the University of Manitoba and Brandon University.

- Support for preliminary work on a sand dune study at Grand Beach Provincial Park. This study is coordinated by the University of Manitoba.

- Support for a study of elk movements in and around Duck Mountain Provincial Park. This study is coordinated by the Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch and the University of Manitoba.

Design and Development

This Section provides development direction, site planning, and public facility design and mapping. Staff participated on the Watchable Wildlife Working Group with Wildlife & Ecosystem Protection Branch and Manitoba Tourism; the Shoreline Erosion Technical Committee; Falcon Lake Townsite Design Standards Committee and on the Interdepartmental Recreational Trails Committee. Major projects included:

- Participation in the provincial cottaging and camping initiatives and park building designs aimed at increasing environmentally friendly campgrounds. Planning included campground reorganizations, new bays and buildings, yurt development, and other projects in a variety of parks throughout the system.
- Management of the contract for the Falcon Lake Waterfront Development, which will lead to the final phase of construction.
- Management of the Tulabi Falls Campground Expansion design contract focussed on integrating new advanced environmental technologies into the campground expansion.
- Planning and designing a number of trails and trail systems including Hecla Island's Black Wolf Trail, Beaudry Park trail expansion, Brokenhead Trail proposal and Birds Hill Trail System.
- Designing various projects to be either delivered through the 2005/06 Capital program or for estimating as part of the 2006/07 program. Examples include: Winnipeg Beach Seawall landscape plan, Birds Hill Amphitheatre design, Falcon Lake Water Treatment Plant landscape plan, Otter Falls Parking Lot, Whiteshell Entrance Signs location concepts and Yurt locations at various parks.

Ecological Reserves

Ecological Reserves are established under ***The Ecological Reserves Act*** to protect areas with unique and representative plants, animals, geologic features, natural landscapes, and ecological processes.

Three ecological reserves were designated throughout the year, and work continued on concluding reviews of previously nominated sites for future designations. The following significant progress occurred:

- Brokenhead Wetland Ecological Reserve was designated June 24, 2005 to preserve a calcareous (mineral rich) fen and an eastern white cedar forest community. The site contains 23 species of plants that are provincially rare or uncommon, including 28 of Manitoba's 36 orchid species and eight of Manitoba's 10 carnivorous plants.
- Armit Meadows Ecological Reserve was designated September 26, 2005 to preserve part of the Armit River and its Canyon. Although the site is largely forested, the valley slopes support a series of small prairie meadows dominated by fescue grasses. Such fescue prairie is extremely rare in Manitoba, and this is its northerly known location.
- Birch River Ecological Reserve was designated September 26, 2005 to preserve a portion of the base of the Porcupine Mountain escarpment. The site captures parts of three beach lines formed by former Glacial Lake Agassiz. A variety of forest communities grow on the better drained, former beach lines and several kinds of wetland communities grow in the inter beach, poorly drained depressions.

The Ecological Reserves Advisory Committee, appointed under the Act met twice during 2005/06 to review sites and advance the program.

- A scientific research permit was issued to sample sites in Long Point Ecological Reserve as part of a study of eastern white cedar dynamics and ecology in Manitoba.

Canadian Heritage Rivers System

Manitoba's participation in the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS) was active in 2005/06 with the designation of the Hayes River to the CHRS. Manitoba now has three designated rivers (the Seal, the Bloodvein and the Hayes rivers). The Red River is scheduled for nomination to the system in 2006.

Designation of the historic Hayes River fur trade route to the Canadian Heritage Rivers System occurred in August of 2005, with the acceptance of a Management Plan for the river by the Canadian Heritage Rivers Board. Official designation ceremonies for the Hayes River were planned for the summer of 2006. Designation of the Hayes was a cooperative effort between Manitoba Conservation and Norway House Cree Nation, Bunibonibee First Nation (Oxford House), Shamattawa First Nation and York Factory First Nation. The Aboriginal fur trade and more recent history, the unspoiled nature, and the recreational potential of the Hayes makes it one of Canada's most outstanding rivers.

As part of the nomination process for the Red River, with assistance from Manitoba Conservation, Rivers West completed a series of informational meetings with the public, municipalities, First Nations and interest groups. Rivers West is a not-for-profit organization whose mandate is to develop and implement a long-term tourism and conservation strategy focusing on the development, promotion and management of the natural, tourism, cultural/heritage and recreational resources of the Red River in Manitoba.

Planning continued for the 2007 Canadian Heritage Rivers Conference, to be held in Winnipeg. This event was awarded to Rivers West by the Canadian Heritage Rivers System.

A ten-year Monitoring Report for the Seal Canadian Heritage River was completed in 2005/06, as part of Manitoba's ongoing commitment to the CHRS.

National Parks Initiative

Parks and Natural Areas continued to be responsible for Manitoba's involvement in a proposal to establish a national park in the Manitoba Lowlands Natural Region, in cooperation with Parks Canada Agency. Discussions with the affected First Nations and communities were held early in the year.

Table PA.2
12.4(c)2 Planning and Development

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	741.7	11.00	668.0	73.7	
Other Expenditures	106.9		115.5	(8.6)	
Total 12.4(c)2	**848.6**	**11.00**	**783.5**	**65.1**	

Park Districts

The Park Districts Section administers the Vacation Home Lot program, commercial operation and Special Consideration Organization (SCO) operations under the authority of *The Provincial Parks Act* and regulations including the Park Activities Regulation and the Permits and Leases regulation. The section manages and controls land use activities and developments, primarily on vacation home lots, through application of policy as prescribed in The Cottager's Handbook for Manitoba Provincial Parks. The costs of road maintenance, garbage handling, provision of water and sewer and other municipal type services provided to lessees, permittees and private landowners are recovered from those users through an annual invoicing program.

Vacation Home Program

The Program administers about 6,300 vacation homes on leased, permitted and private lands in Parks as well, 353 assignments and 146 collateral security recordings were processed, 459 *Leases* were renewed, 92 new *Leases* issued, and 390 *Permits* issued for cottage construction or structural modification. This program generated $4.7 million in revenue. There were 400 leasehold inspections carried out.

Commercial Operations

This unit manages relations with private-sector business operators to ensure high-quality services for visitors. Extensive participation was required in the process to secure a private owner for the Gull Harbor Resort & Conference Centre

Approximately 160 commercial operations provide such services as restaurants, stores, accommodation, golf courses, marinas, and beach concessions. Also, 45 special-consideration organizations conduct educational and religious programs.

Land Use Activities

Permits were issued for commercial fishing, wild rice cultivation, trapline cabin construction, hay and grazing, scientific research, and mineral claim-staking and exploration.

Table PA.3
12.4(c)3 Park Districts

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	275.6	6.00	272.1	3.5	
Other Expenditures	48.3		48.4	(0.1)	
Total 12.4(c)3	**323.9**	**6.00**	**320.5**	**3.4**	

Park Operations and Maintenance

Regional Operations Division operates and maintains Parks to provide high-quality, safe and enjoyable outdoor recreational and educational opportunities, while ensuring compliance with provincial laws.

For more details please see regional/parks summaries highlighted in the Regional Operations Division section.

Table PA.4
12.4(c)4 Park Operations and Maintenance

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	12,104.5	222.71	11,682.5	422.0	1.
Other Expenditures	4,989.7		5,157.9	(168.2)	
Recoverable from Rural Economic Development Initiatives	(455.9)		(461.7)	5.8	
Total 12.4(c)4	**16,638.3**	**222.71**	**16,378.7**	**259.6**	

1. Increase in Salaries and Employee Benefits is due to increased departmental staffing requirements for increased Parks Operations and Maintenance project activities.

Support Services

The section sets the direction of the outdoor recreation and the interpretation programs in Manitoba Provincial Parks and evaluates and implements new initiatives in campground, day-use, backcountry management and outdoor education, as well as customer-service training and volunteer activities. The Section guides and supports Regional Operations in ensuring high-quality outdoor recreational experiences. This includes analysis of operating strategies and procedures, policy review, market research, marketing strategy development, promotion, and statistical compilation and trend evaluation. The Interpretation program undertakes research leading to trail and brochure development and delivery of live programs throughout the park system.

The following key activities were carried out in 2005/06.

- Development and implementation of a comprehensive communication strategy for the parks program in conjunction with Communication Services Manitoba;
- Promotion of park programs and initiatives through newspaper advertisements, news releases and handouts. Information included opening and closing dates, May long-weekend liquor-free camping and Reservation Service. Also included was the distribution of promotional items to community events, non-profit organizations and youth groups.
- Reprinting of a variety of publications including *Manitoba Provincial Parks Guide*, *Parks Reservation Service*, *Camping Lite with Yurts and Cabins*, *Fall Camping*, *Group Use* and *Volunteer Campground Host*.
- Advertisement in *Woodall's North American Campground Directories*, *CAA* and *Trailer Life* directories.
- Continuing to make enhancements to the Manitoba Parks website in order to best serve client needs and effectively communicate provincial parks programming.

Staff participated in provincial tourism committees and workshops to improve positioning in tourism strategies and promotional campaigns. The section participated in the Mid-Canada Boat Show to increase awareness of Parks and park programs.

Outdoor Recreation Programs

About 5.0 million people visited provincial parks. 5,871 campsites were available, including 4,388 transient sites (of which 2,806 or 64 percent were available for reservation) and 1,483 seasonal sites. 166,380 transient camping nights and 44,010 seasonal nights were recorded.

Reservations were offered in 38 campgrounds, 22 group-use areas and two cabin locations through the Parks Reservation Service. A total of 36,771 reservations were made, up 457 from the previous year, an increase of approximately 1% percent. Web reservations accounted for 43% of all sales.

A major initiative in 2005/06 was the design and development of a new made-in-Manitoba Parks Reservation Service. Information Technology staff, Parks Branch staff, MICT personnel and a local consultant was hired through Manitoba Conservation as well as staff from a number of departments were involved. This new internet based service enables campers to book sites on-line and is to begin operation in April 2006 and includes campground computerization.

Beach Safety

The Beach Safety Program in Manitoba Parks is primarily focused on public relations and water safety education and is provided under contract at three provincial park beaches (Birds Hill, Grand Beach and Winnipeg Beach). Officers provide onsite water safety education and emergency response as required. Provincial parks offer beach opportunities at 82 other non-staffed locations. 2005/06 initiatives included:

- Extension of contracted beach patrol services for an additional two years at the three staffed beaches.
- Province-wide application of national standards for a dual buoy line system identifying swimming zones and a no swimming / no boating buffer zone between swimmers and boaters.
- Involvement in the revision of Manitoba Coalition for Safer Waters Waterfront Safety Guidelines. The guidelines reflect current practices used in waterfront management.
- Involvement in the Provincial Injury Prevention Strategy related to drowning prevention. The Manitoba Coalition for Safer Waters continued to build its water safety strategy and framework, which identify key elements, audiences and activities. For more information please see http://www.hsc.mb.ca/impact/s_w_index.htm

Interpretation

The program offers visitors a deeper understanding and appreciation of natural and cultural resources in provincial parks. This in turn assists the public in understanding the goals and programs of the department. Live field programs, complemented by publications, outdoor exhibits, and audio-visual materials bring visitors in direct contact with park resources and management.

Delivery of the field program includes a full-time interpreter at Birds Hill, and 21 seasonal (May-September) interpreters. Programs are presented at Spruce Woods, Hecla/Grindstone, Birds Hill, Grand Beach, Whiteshell, St. Norbert, St. Malo, Lockport, Paint Lake, River Road and Turtle Mountain provincial parks. In addition, 18 Green Team members provided assistance at these parks. Interpreters contacted about 80,000 visitors at field programs and in interpretive centres and museums.

Table PA.5

12.4(c)5 Support Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	466.2	8.00	430.3	35.9	
Other Expenditures	309.3		326.6	(17.3)	
Total 12.4(c)5	**775.5**	**8.00**	**756.9**	**18.6**	

Protected Areas Initiative

The Protected Areas Initiative (PAI) contributes to long-term sustainable development by assembling a network of core protected areas designed to conserve ecosystems and maintain biodiversity across Manitoba. Protected areas consist of land, freshwater, or marine areas that are free from oil, petroleum, natural gas or hydroelectric development, logging, mining, and other activities that may significantly and adversely affect habitat. Protected lands can include national parks, ecological reserves, provincial parks and park reserves, wildlife management areas, provincial forests and private lands that meet the province's definition of protected.

The goal of the PAI is to establish, for each of the 18 natural regions and sub-regions of the province, a network of protected areas containing an adequate and representative sample of the region's diverse landscapes. A geographic information system (GIS) is used to identify and evaluate potential areas, and track progress towards meeting this goal.

Figure 6: Manitoba's Network of Protected Areas.

The PAI's role is to work cooperatively within the department (primarily with Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection, Forestry, Parks and Natural Areas, and Aboriginal Relations Branches), and with staff from other government departments with roles and responsibilities concerning land and resource use or allocation (primarily Industry, Economic Development, and Mines; Water Stewardship; Transportation and Government Services) to design and establish protected areas. It is also the responsibility of the PAI to review protected areas proposals with the forestry and mining sectors, First Nations and Northern Affairs communities, and other stakeholders.

The Integrated Scientific Advisory Committee (ISAC) and regionally-based integrated technical teams made up of Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship staff with ecological and conservation based expertise continue to assist with program delivery. The role of ISAC is to identify ecological features important for consideration when designing protected areas proposals. Planning and design of protected areas proposals and consultations are the responsibility of integrated technical teams within each region.

Important work continued this year with the mining and forestry industries, First Nation and Northern Affairs communities, and environmental organizations regarding protected areas. The review of protected areas proposals in Natural Region 4c (Tembec's Forest Management License #1) continued with First Nations, Northern Affairs communities and stakeholders. The Eastern Region Integrated Technical Team commenced work to develop protected areas proposals in Natural Region 5c in southeastern Manitoba. Work continued this year to identify land owned by conservation agencies within agro-Manitoba that have the potential to become protected areas.

The PAI continued to participate in the development of the national Conservation Areas Reporting and Tracking System (CARTS) schema (standardized dataset) as a component of the National Forest Information System (NFIS). This included the application of International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) categories for Manitoba's protected areas to facilitate national assessments of protected areas, in particular for the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.

In 2005/06, the PAI assisted with the establishment of three new protected areas (Brokenhead Wetland, Armit Meadows and Birch River Ecological Reserves). In conjunction with Parks System Planning, the PAI secured a 5 year extension to protect Fisher Bay and Birch Island Park Reserves.

Other major projects include:

- Memorandum of Agreement signed to recognize the Manitoba Naturalists Society's private lands.
- Memorandum of Understanding signed with Ducks Unlimited Canada to guide co-operative efforts in conserving, protecting and promoting habitat stewardship in agro-Manitoba's prairie pothole region and Manitoba's boreal forests.

Table PA.6
12.4(c)6 Protected Areas

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	198.2	3.00	206.5	(8.3)	1.
Other Expenditures	55.4		115.0	(59.6)	
Grant Assistance	100.0		100.0	0.0	
Total 12.4(c)6	**353.6**	**3.00**	**421.5**	**(67.9)**	

1. **Other expenditures were lapsed in order to offset Departmental employee salaries and benefits. In addition, a survey was postponed due to inclement weather.**

Air Quality Management

To ensure the sustainable use of our air quality resources for the benefit of citizens today, while safeguarding these resources for future generations, the Section:

- Develops and reviews objectives and guidelines for air pollutants of concern,
- Monitors ambient (outdoor) air quality in urban areas and near selected industrial sources to measure adherence to objectives and guidelines,
- Undertakes special air quality projects,
- Provides scientific and technical support to the Department, other agencies and the public,
- Prepares reports and evaluates peer reports,
- Assists in the review and assessment of developments and provides comments for environmental licensing,
- Participates in the development and implementation of national strategies, and
- Assists in the delivery of other departmental programs.

Table AQ.1
Air Quality Activities

Activity	Number
National Air Pollution Surveillance (NAPS) – number of urban stations operated	2
Monitoring industries with air emissions – number of stations operated	2[1]
Participation in regional/national air issues and strategies	11
Support to major Department activities	6
The Environment Act *and* ***The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act***	
Proposals/Licenses: Reviewed	77
Comments provided	16
Review of air dispersion modelling reports/source sampling reports	9
Participation in standard development/implementation (Canada-wide Standards)	4
Requests for information (data, criteria, technical information, etc.) and presentations	30

[1] both sites operated with assistance from Regional Operations.

The following key activities were carried out in 2005/06.

- Outdoor air quality monitoring successfully continued at the established provincial sites; the air quality monitoring activities of others as required under regulation were audited.
- New and replacement air quality monitoring equipment and peripherals for the NAPS-related program were received from the federal government for a number of air contaminants (wind direction and speed, multi-point instrument calibration equipment, "portable" fine particulate matter analyzer) – all of these enhancements were placed into network operation.

Annual air quality statistics for the year 2004 were completed and made publicly available. Release of the real-time hourly-updated air quality index (AQI) continued for the downtown Winnipeg air monitoring site.

The information for 2004 is on the Department's web site along with statistics from other years
http://www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/airquality/aq-info/index.html

- An air quality report assessing Manitoba air quality over the years 2000 to 2002 was completed and released.
- The air quality data collected from the special air quality study in the Transcona area of Winnipeg was assessed and initial drafting of the technical report started.

- Technical support was provided to the Department's review of its base metal smelter emissions strategy and potential environmental impacts from atmospheric acidic deposition. Regular liaison and interaction was continued with northern smelters for the management of air quality. A summer project was undertaken to compile existing information on environmental quality in northern and eastern Manitoba. These data supported the assessment of the ecological sensitivity of these areas to potential acidic deposition.
- A review of arsenic-in-air levels in the Flin Flon area from the long-term air quality monitoring program was completed.
- Canada-Wide Standards (CWS): participation continued in the development of the CWS for mercury release from coal-fired electricity generation; provincial implementation of national standards for particulate matter, ozone, dioxins/furans and mercury continued.

Table AQ.2

12.4(d) Air Quality Management

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	298.4	4.00	279.3	19.1	
Other Expenditures	69.4		67.4	2.0	
Grant Assistance	0.0		2.8	(2.8)	
Total 12.4(d)	**367.8**	**4.00**	**349.5**	**18.3**	

Forestry

Forestry Branch plans, manages and allocates forest resources for the long-term social, economic and environmental benefit of Manitobans. Crown forests are managed sustainably for all users, and harvest and renewal activities are implemented in a manner that conserves ecosystem diversity. The Branch encourages diversification and growth of the forest industry, emphasising efficient utilization. To limit widespread tree mortality and timber losses, levels of protection are provided commensurate with social, economic and environmental values at risk. The Branch advises and assists the public and industry with forest health issues on provincial Crown land, private woodlots and urban forests.

Forestry Branch oversees activity effectiveness to meet goals, reviews Forest Management Plans and guides and informs Regional managers and enforcement personnel on forestry policies and procedures.

The Manitoba Model Forest was supported by in-kind contributions, including participation of two representatives who sit as Directors. The Department continued to participate in the Canadian Forest Service's First Nations Forestry Program. A team comprised of First Nation's organizations, industry and government (federal and provincial) delivers this program, which is funded by the federal government.

The Branch manages and administers a grant of $200.0 to the Manitoba Forestry Association's woodlot program, which is provided through the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund. This program includes the development of woodlot management plans and technology transfer in the southeastern, Interlake and western portions of the province. The Branch also provides a grant of $23.4 and staff involvement for the support of educational programs delivered by the Manitoba Forestry Association, including an environmental education competition, Envirothon.

Administration

Branch administration establishes guidelines and ensures conformity to department policies and government goals. It provides administrative support and personnel duties, prepares annual estimates, ensures expenditures conform to estimates and department policy, controls funds, monitors efficiency and effectiveness of expenditures and co-ordinates development of the annual work plan.

Table FO.1
12.4(e)1 Administration

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	378.0	6.50	337.7	40.3	
Other Expenditures	332.5		322.8	9.7	
Grant Assistance	23.4		23.4	0.0	
Total 12.4(e)1	**733.9**	**6.50**	**683.9**	**50.0**	

Forest Inventory and Resource Analysis

The Forest Inventory and Resource Analysis Section (FIRA) is responsible and accountable for the development of programs that ensure the sustainable management and use of forest resources on Crown lands. Primary areas of responsibility include developing and maintaining information on forested land and resources, establishing sustainable harvest levels and assessing and reporting on forest sustainability.

The Forest Inventory program is responsible for mapping and classifing forest stands, tracking changes due to fire and timber harvesting and for maintaining and managing the Provincial Forest Resource Inventory digital database using Geographic Information System(s) (GIS). Forest fires that occurred in Manitoba's forested areas in 2005, and timber harvest depletions from the eastern and western regions were digitized for entry into Manitoba's digital forest inventory database. The Section responded to information requests, including the distribution of digital and hard copy Forest Inventory information to department staff, forest industry, consultants, academics and the public. The section's forest modeling software, Geographic Information System (GIS) and related workstations were upgraded to ensure effective management of the Forest Resource Inventory (FRI) database and forest resource evaluations.

The following key activities were carried out in 2005/06.

- A number of forest inventory projects were underway and/or completed in 2005/06, including: forest stratification in Forest Management Unit (FMU) 12; forest stands in FMU 11 were photo-interpreted, digitized and loaded into the GIS database; and FMU 10 was mapped for land cover change using satellite imagery. The existing forest inventory database was updated to reflect these changes. Hardcopy historical forest inventory maps from 1962, 1964 and 1966, were digitized and loaded into the Provincial inventory database for future research.

- Significant progress was achieved in establishing long-term research plots (Manitoba's Ecosystem Monitoring Network-MEMN) across Manitoba to measure provincial, national and international reporting requirements related to forest sustainability, climate change and forest growth. A total of 946 satellite vegetation plots across the Prairie, Boreal Shield, Taiga Shield, Hudson Plains and Southern Arctic eco-regions were classified through the Earth Observation Sustainable Development Initiative, which is spearheaded by the Geomatics Branch of Manitoba Conservation. The database for the 97 previously established ground plots associated with the MEMN initiative was populated and error checked. Thirty photo-plots were interpreted, and aerial photography was obtained for 206 plots located in the Boreal Plains and Boreal Shield ecoregions.

- The Forest Productivity group re-measured 50 permanent sample plot(s) and established one new plot in the Boreal Plain ecoregion. Two permanent sample plots were decommissioned as a result of a forest fire and damage caused by a water bomber. The technical design for volume sampling in the Saskatchewan River Forest Section was completed, and a volume sampling contract was awarded to Swampy Cree Tribal Council in partnership with Waugh's Woods Ltd. Provincial growth and yield crews audited 30 per cent of the 1500 temporary sample plots established by the partnership, and provincial crews collected data from 698 plots in the Saskatchewan River Forest Section.

- Yield curves at various timber utilization levels were completed and used to evaluate the impact on potential wood supply in Forest Management Licence Area # 1. Staff assisted the Canadian Forest Service (CFS) with testing different versions of Carbon Budget Models (CMB-CFS3) and evaluated biomass models developed by CFS for different tree species in Manitoba's forests.

- A study was initiatied to develop yield curves for the Pineland Forest Section for use in future wood supply determination.

- The Resource Analysis group continued to work on completing a new wood supply for Forest Management License Area #1. The Technical Advisory Committee, formed to guide the wood supply analysis, updated the existing forest inventory for depletion and renewal activities that occurred after 1996, determined the operable landbase, defined forest management practices and identified spatial and non-spatial constraints employed in the wood supply modelling. The new wood supply analysis for the FML accounts for recent landbase changes, such as the expanded riparian corridor along the Manigotagan River, Treaty Land Entitlement selections, heritage resource sites, proposed Protected Area(s) and the special habitat requirements for the Owl Lake caribou herd. The calculated wood supply reflects current forest management strategies and timber utilization practiced in this area, and a final report will be released early in 2006.

- A technical advisory committee was formed to guide the completion of a new wood supply for the Pineland Forest Section and FMU 30. Timberline Forest Inventory consultants were contracted to determine the net landbase for this area which will be used in subsequent wood supply modeling.

Table FO.2
12.4(e)2 Forest Inventory and Resource Analysis

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	925.8	16.00	923.1	2.7	
Other Expenditures	599.6		764.4	(164.8)	1.
Total 12.4(e)2	**1,525.4**	**16.00**	**1,687.5**	**(162.1)**	

1. Under expenditure in Other Expenditures is due to funding for departmental salaries was not required as a result of vacant positions. Lapsed funds were used to offset other departmental programming pressures.

Forest Health and Renewal

The section protects forests from damage by insects, disease and other factors, assists wildfire management and ensures all harvested Crown forest lands are renewed to maintain ecosystem integrity and biodiversity. The public and industry are advised and provided assistance on forest health and renewal issues by the section.

The Forest Renewal Program is delivered by Regional Operations Division and administered and co-ordinated by this section. The department and industry carried out forest renewal treatments on 11,476 hectares, including re-treatments. Most of the area was planted with 14.3 million trees. Scarification was used to promote natural regeneration on the rest. Except for some department planting in the Eastern Region and two non-tendered contracts to First Nation companies, delivery was through tendered contracts.

Of the estimated 12,097 hectares of softwoods harvested in 2004/05, 25 per cent (3,051 ha) was site prepared in 2005/06 for reforestation. The rest was left to regenerate naturally or will be planted or otherwise treated in the future. This is down from previous years, primarily due to a shift by the forest industry to plant more trees on un-prepared sites. Therefore, even though the area site prepared for reforestation decreased, the number of trees to be planted did not. Expanding harvest of poplar (about 33 per cent of harvested area over the past five years) increased the area left to regenerate naturally, as poplar regenerates readily from root suckering. About 42 hectares of harvested area that had not restocked sufficiently were retreated by planting.

The Section maintains the pool of site-preparation equipment and co-ordinates its use with Regional Operations. Renewal technology transfer to Region staff is provided through field trials and promoting innovation. Regional renewal programs are also supported through administration and co-ordination of silviculture contracts and assisting in the planning and delivery of vegetation management projects. The Manitoba Silviculture Technical Committee (MbSTC) comprised of government and industry foresters and technicians, continued its work of exchanging ideas and solutions and providing technology transfer. Work continues in this area.

The following key activities were carried out in 2005/06.

Regeneration Assessment

- Tembec/Pine Falls Paper, Tolko Manitoba and Louisiana-Pacific hired contract surveyors for regeneration surveys and staff to check the survey results. The FH&R Section tested branch, contract and company surveyors. Tolko and Louisiana-Pacific both contracted out their surveys to the same company. The contractor's 12 surveyors were trained and certified, along with the department's five surveyors. All obtained Regeneration Surveyor Licenses. An audit of Tembec, Tolko and Louisiana-Pacific surveys and check surveys was successful, and Certificates of Reforestation were issued. The successful re-certification program was continued for surveyors who were licensed the preceding year.

- Regeneration surveys to determine the success of forest renewal were performed on 14,831 hectares. The Branch surveyed 2,850 hectares, while licensed regeneration surveyors from Tolko surveyed 7,881 hectares, Louisiana-Pacific surveyed 2,868 hectares and Tembec surveyed 1,232 hectares.

- The branch performed Free-to-Grow (FTG) surveys on softwood-dominated forest stands to determine if they are developing appropriately (i.e. surpassing competing tree species in height within 15-20 years of age). Two techniques were used, full and extensive. Full-survey technique was used on 2,210 hectares, and extensive technique was used on 849 hectares. Branch staff trained surveyors from Tembec and Tolko's contractor to perform FTG surveys, which they then conducted on 1,763 and 1,366 hectares respectively. Louisiana-Pacific is scheduled to commence FTG surveys in 2008.

Insects and Diseases

- Surveys, efficacy tests and research on significant insects and diseases were conducted. Significant pests/diseases included spruce budworm, Dutch elm disease, jack pine budworm, elm bark beetles, dwarf mistletoe, western gall rust, Armillaria root rot, spruce beetle, eastern larch beetle and pine root collar weevil. Forest health data was collected in regeneration, FTG and pre-harvest surveys to develop management prescriptions and track substantially infected stands. Assessments of vegetation and crop tree response were conducted ten years after aerial herbicide application on a black spruce plantation in the Interlake region.

- Spruce budworm infested about 65,550 hectares in 2005. Approximately 6,961 hectares of spruce/fir were moderately to severely defoliated in the Eastern Region (Tembec's Forest Management License Area (FMLA) and in Nopiming and Whiteshell Provincial Parks. In the Northwest Region (Tolko's FMLA) the infestation decreased from 73,715 in 2004, to 33,902 hectares in 2005. In the Northeast Region, severe defoliation was fairly localised in the Paint Lake area. The outbreak in Spruce Woods increased from 22,694 in 2004 to 24,687 hectares in 2005. Emergency funding was provided for the aerial application of the biosynthetic insecticide, Mimic (tebufenozide), on 21,756 hectares in the Northwest Region (Tolko's FMLA). The aerial application resulted in good budworm population suppression and foliage protection. Jack pine budworm populations remained low.

Dutch Elm Disease

- The Dutch elm disease (DED) management program seeks to reduce the impact of DED on urban elm populations by keeping the annual elm tree mortality to two per cent or less. The program manages DED in 38 significant urban areas in Manitoba with collaboration between the province and participating communities through annually renewed cost share agreements. Under these agreements, the community and the province are each responsible for the implementation of specific set of DED control measures. Major participating urban centres are Brandon, Portage la Prairie, Morden, Winkler, Dauphin, Steinbach, Selkirk and Swan River.

- There were 7,893 elms marked for removal in the cost-share communities and the Winnipeg buffer zone. High levels of DED persist along rivers, especially the Red, Assiniboine, Boyne (near Carman) and Souris Rivers. As of March 31, 2006, 8,889 elms were removed from 37 cost-share communities and nineteen urban-buffer-zone municipalities. The program expects to remove all the diseased elms by the end of spring.

- Since spring of 2004, the DED program has been using the Urban Forestry Information System (UFIS). This is a spatial database system used for tracking DED surveys and operations. UFIS has performed as expected. The application enables the spatial tracking of the spread of the Dutch elm disease in managed areas.

- In late August, the DED program implemented a basal application program in the RM of Ritchot along the Seine River system, which is included in the Winnipeg buffer-zone. A total of 6,386 elm trees were treated on mostly private properties. Areas along rivers and creeks have large populations of elms and a high incidence of DED. It is thought that DED spreads into urban areas along river corridors. Treatments are conducted in close coordination with the City of Winnipeg, which applied treatments to similar high density DED areas within the city boundaries. It is expected that regular basal treatments of areas with high DED infections will result, over the long term, in a significant reduction in the spread of DED into the city of Winnipeg.

- The Provincial Dutch Elm Disease Program continues to pursue possibilities to utilize removed DED infected elm trees instead of destroying them by burning. In the past, attempts to arrange for the utilization of the wood by private industry have not been successful, mainly because of the limited local market applications for elm wood products.

- In the summer of 2005, the University of Manitoba commenced a DED research project. The objectives of the project are to find an environmentally friendlier replacement for the pesticide currently used to control the elm bark beetle and to investigate the potential benefits to the DED management program of the early removal of diseased elm trees. This project is a collaboration between the City of Winnipeg, the Coalition to Save the Elms, Manitoba Conservation and the University of Manitoba, which is leading the project.

Other

- Measurement of jack pine decay was completed to develop cull factors for growth and yield models in Forest Management Unit 31.

- Fire Program was assisted by identifying values at risk, reviewing Forest Management Licensees' annual fire control plans, digitizing all fires into the branch's Geographic Information System and participating in the Canadian Forest Service's National Fire Database mapping program.

Table FO.3
Forest Renewal Activities

	Manitoba Conservation	Tembec/ Pine Falls	Tolko Manitoba	Louisiana-Pacific	Total
Area Treated (hectares)	1,995	913	7,353	1,173	11,434
Area Retreated (hectares)	6	36	0	0	42
Total Treated Areas	2,001	949	7,353	1,173	11,476
Total Trees Planted (1000s)	3,352	1,170	7,900	1,935	14,357
Total Area Site Prepared for Renewal Treatment (hectares)	1,677	424	831	118	3,050
Total Area Tended (hectares)	10	175	1,700	0	1,885
General cones collections	14.9		0.0		14.9 hl[1]
Seed orchard co-op collections	47.4	2.9	0.0	1.5	51.8 hl

[1]hl refers to hectolitres of seed.

Tree Improvement

- The objectives of the Tree Improvement Program are to provide a genetically improved seed source for reforestation and to ensure the conservation of the forest genetic resource. The program consists of seven government/industry co-operatives, including Tolko Manitoba, LP Canada and Tembec and six provincial programs. Tree Improvement staff manage and provide technical direction for all programs. All work involved in the maintenance and assessment of family tests and the management of seed orchards is completed by tree improvement staff, and a portion of the costs is billed to the forest companies through the Tree Improvement Trust Account.

- There are currently 14 seed orchards (62.9 hectares - over 175,000 trees) and 27 family tests (83.3 hectares – over 191,000 trees) across the province. Improved jack pine seed is available for the Southeast, Interlake and Saskatchewan River breeding zones. Improved white spruce seed is available for the Mountain and Saskatchewan River breeding zones. Improved black spruce seed is available for the Lake Winnipeg East, Saskatchewan River, Nelson River, Interlake and Southeast breeding zones. In 2005/06, approximately 44 per cent of all seedlings planted across the province originated from genetically improved seed. Plantations originating from improved seed have been entered into the Forest Manager database. Jack pine and black spruce programs in the Mountain Breeding Zone and a black spruce program in the Highrock Breeding Zone will provide genetically improved seed in the future.

- Manitoba is cooperating with the Canadian Forest Service in the Forest 2020 Plantation Demonstration and Assessment initiative (Climate Action Plan), with Manitoba being the delivery agency for the establishment of a trial near Winnipeg. Manitoba also assisted the Canadian Forest Service with the establishment of short-rotation willow and hybrid poplar plantations as a part of the Canadian Biomass Innovation Network.

Table FO.4
12.4(e)3 Forest Health and Renewal

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,425.3	18.56	1,645.0	780.3	1.
Other Expenditures	3,209.9		3,890.1	(680.2)	
Less: Recoverable from Rural Economic Development Initiatives	(1,266.9)		(1,324.5)	57.6	
Total 12.4(e)3	**4,368.3**	**18.56**	**4,210.6**	**157.7**	2.

1. Funds that were originally estimated to be classified as operating costs were classified as salary and employee benefit costs.
2. Net over expenditure is primarily due to higher than anticipated program activity.

Forest Management and Development

The Section provides direction to Regional Operations Division offices and forestry companies in Manitoba on forest management. Together with companies that have been granted Forest Management Licences, Manitoba Conservation manages forested Crown land, Timber harvesting and other forest practices to ensure they are sustainable and consistent with provincial legislation, policies and guidelines. Manitoba's primary forest industry employs about 10,000 people, both directly and indirectly.

The following key activities were carried out in 2005/06.

- In 2005/2006, 1,670,891 m^3 of crown timber was harvested by the three Forest Management Licence holders (164,646 m^3 by Tembec, 841,222 m^3 by Tolko Manitoba and 665,023 m^3 by Louisiana Pacific). Quota Holders, timber sale and permit holders harvested another 980,725 m^3 for a total of 2,651,616 m^3. Of that 1,910,746 m^3 was softwood and 740,870 m^3 was hardwood. Total Revenue in 2005/2006 from Timber Dues, Forest Renewal Charges and Forest Protection Charges was $8,577,223.64

- Manitoba's public timber auction process continues with semi-annual Stumpage Based Auctions. These auctions are advertised on the Forestry Branch website and at all Manitoba Conservation offices. Each auction establishes a minimum timber dues price that allows industry an opportunity to bid based on its evaluation of the timber relative to the range of potential products and markets. Public timber auctions between April 1st, 2005, and March 31st, 2006, resulted in 11 Timber Sale Agreements for a total volume of 8,875 m^3 of softwood and 13,550 m^3 of hardwood. The total revenue received from auction sales was $89,274.75. Timber dues represented $60,298.75 of that figure. The balance of the revenue generated from auction sales was for Forest Renewal Charges $25,163.75 and Forest Protection Charges $3,812.25

- Manitoba's Forest Act requires that every person transporting Crown timber must have a load slip. To better track movement of timber in Manitoba, new load slip tracking systems were developed and initiated in 2005/06. This involved designing new load slip books, stringent distribution procedures and the development of an integrated computer tracking system.

- In 2005, the Quota Policy was updated for the period 2005-2010. This involved reviewing how timber was utilized by the quota holders during the last 5 year period, realigning the quota policy with *The Forest Act* and Regulations and developing procedures to administer quotas for the next five years. There were 102 quota holders in 2005.

- In 2005, Manitoba Forestry Branch began a review of *The Forest Act* and Regulations. This review will be completed in the 06/07 fiscal year. The review will identify changes to the Act and Regulations in order to support and accommodate improvements to Manitoba's timber administration system.

- A Crown consultation process with First Nation and Aboriginal communities with respect to Louisiana Pacific Ltd.'s proposed Forest Management Plan was initiated in 2005. The Forestry Branch has led this process on behalf of the Manitoba Government.

- The Forest Practices Committee, comprised of representatives from other branches and forest industry, continued to develop guidelines for forestry practices. A draft of the *Forest Management Guidelines for Riparian Management* guidebook was worked on and is currently being reviewed.

- In the fall of 2005, a consultant was contracted to instruct and deliver a Scaling (wood measurement) course. The course was attended by more than 20 persons from industry and Conservation whose jobs require them to scale timber volumes for mill use, to report harvest activity and to calculate payment for Crown timber. Twelve new Scaler Licences were issued in 2005/06.

- A new requirement was introduced in 2005/06 to ensure the competency of licenced scalers is maintained over time. In order for a scaler to maintain their licence, they must complete a refresher course every five years.

- Forestry Branch is expanding the check scaling program that ensures wood is measured accurately by the forest industry and that appropriate fees and charges are paid. Revised methods will be used by Conservation staff and regional assistance has been secured to make the program significantly more efficient. In 2005/06, Forestry Branch and regional staff focused their scaling efforts on sampling and fine-tuning wood defects and undersize log factors.

Table FO.5
12.4(e)4 Forest Management and Development

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	513.4	10.00	576.3	(62.9)	
Other Expenditures	322.1		667.6	(345.5)	1.
Total 12.4(e)4	**835.5**	**10.00**	**1,243.9**	**(408.4)**	

1. Under-expenditure in Other Expenditures is due to the delay in acquisition and instalment of computer software for timber administration under the new Forest Act and Stumpage System.

Sustainable Forestry Unit

The Sustainable Forestry Unit (SFU) was established in 2003, to promote economic development through the forest industry. At the strategic level, the SFU reports directly to a four-person management committee which is comprised of the Secretary to the Community and Economic Development Committee of Cabinet, the Deputy Minister of Conservation, the Deputy Minister of Industry, Economic Development and Mines and the Deputy Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs. This reporting structure promotes a sustainable development approach to Manitoba's forests, with a priority focus on economic diversification and Aboriginal participation, as well as proper coordination between departments.

The Sustainable Forestry Unit works closely with the other sections of the Forestry Branch to ensure proper coordination on issues, such as wood supply, fibre quality, forest management, and wood tenure. The Unit is working to enhance forestry opportunities within the context of sustainable fibre usage and environmentally responsible forest management practices.

As a cross-departmental unit, the SFU is charged with developing a sustainable and diversified strategy for Manitoba's forests by focusing on the following areas:

- Encouraging Aboriginal forestry developments, including resource co-management, business ownership and economic development (training, employment, etc.);
- Increasing value-added processing in the forest sector (including timber and non-timber forest products);
- Fostering interaction between primary and secondary industry; and,
- Monitor discussions, respond to legal requests, and coordinate policy reforms related to the Canada-US softwood lumber trade dispute.

The following key activities were carried out in 2005/06.

- Forintek Canada Corp., a not-for-profit wood products research organization, established a $1,037,200 three-year program in Manitoba on April 1, 2004, through a federal-provincial agreement which runs until December 31, 2007. Forintek has established a secondary forest products industry advisor in Winnipeg and a primary industry advisor in The Pas. In 2005, although not part of the Manitoba program, Forintek established an advisor in Winnipeg to deliver on the concept of Lean Manufacturing to the forest industry in Western Canada.

- The SFU continued to monitor the activities of the Northern Forest Diversification Centre (NFDC) as the centre worked towards a new business structure. The NFDC has a three-year federal-provincial grant to assist in its restructuring. The SFU represents Manitoba on the NFDC's Board of Directors.

- The SFU continued to chair a Federal-Provincial First Nations Forestry Working Group, which is comprised of provincial and federal representatives from departments responsible for economic development, forestry, First Nations or training. The working group provides a communication link between the two levels of government and provides opportunities for federal and provincial governments to jointly address common interests and concerns.

- In 2005/06, Conservation continued working with the First Nation Forestry Limited Partnership (FNFLP) toward a major hardwood products development in southern Manitoba. A lead proponent was selected, and Manitoba negotiated a Commitment Agreement with the company. The Sustainable Forestry Unit assisted FNFLP in several areas throughout the year, including meeting with First Nations communities. Negotiation of a Commitment Agreement with the successful proponent continued through 2006.

- Manitoba Conservation signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Swampy Cree Tribal Council (SCTC) committing timber resources to support economic opportunities for the SCTC through forestry developments. The agreement outlines Manitoba's intent to commit unallocated hardwood volumes to a project or projects that the First Nations wish to pursue. The SCTC represents eight First Nations communities in northwest Manitoba.

- The SFU continued to work with communities in various parts of the province that were interested in developing forestry based businesses, such as saw mills or log home building establishments. Much of the work focused on providing business contacts and advice.

Table FO.6
12.4(e)5 Sustainable Forestry Unit

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	270.7	4.00	296.1	(25.4)	
Other Expenditures	173.8		200.0	(26.2)	
Total 12.4(e)5	**444.5**	**4.00**	**496.1**	**(51.6)**	

Forest Regeneration Stock

Manitoba Conservation purchased 3.39 million seedlings for planting in 2005/06, and 2.93 million seedlings were grown for planting in 2006/07. Another 1.17 million seedlings were purchased for planting by Tembec in 2005/06, and 1.17 million seedlings were grown for planting in 2006/07. All stock is grown at Pineland Forest Nursery (Tolko and Louisiana-Pacific purchase seedlings independently). This appropriation is also used for seed collection, extraction, storage, transportation of seedlings to the field and a stock identification system. It is anticipated that there will be a significant increase in stock requirements for 2007/08, with the increased renewal responsibilities as a result of timber auction sales and First Nations initiatives.

Table FO.7
12.4(e)6 Forest Regeneration Stock

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Other Expenditures	1,220.8		1,355.3	(134.5)	1.
Total 12.4(e)6	**1,220.8**		**1,355.3**	**(134.5)**	

1. Under expenditure in Other Expenditures is due to postponement of a seedling order to 2006/07.

Habitat Enhancement Fund

The Fund provided a grant to Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation in support of the co-operative Critical Wildlife Habitat Program. The grant funds stewardship initiatives targeted at species at risk and habitat conservation activities, including mixed-grass prairie inventories,mixed grass prairie grazing management, other land management activities on program lands, (including native prairie management), and extension initiatives. It is used toward the match required for Federal Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk allocations for Manitoba projects.

Table HE.1

12.4(f) Habitat Enhancement Fund

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Other Expenditures	50.0		50.0	0.0	
Total 12.4(f)	**50.0**		**50.0**	**0.0**	

Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection

The Branch manages wildlife resources to conserve biological diversity, including species and ecosystems within the context of the principles of sustainable development. The Branch protects and enhances habitat on Crown and private lands and monitors the effects of industrial emissions and land use on ecosystems. Resources are allocated to maximize long-term social, economic and environmental benefits. The Branch co-operates with a wide range of clients and groups to promote conservation and to realize optimum benefits from interaction with wildlife. The Branch represents wildlife interests in departmental, provincial, national, and international initiatives for biodiversity, species at risk, migratory wildlife, game and fur species, problem wildlife, protected spaces, conservation, sustainable development, and federal-provincial harmonization. The Branch ensures that wildlife programs reflect the cultural, subsistence, social, and economic values of Manitobans, consistent with policy, procedure and legislation.

The following key activities were carried out in 2005/06.

Administration

- Grants were made to the Churchill Northern Studies Centre (research on wildlife and resource management), the Manitoba Trappers Association (trapper education and involvement in fur management), the Fur Institute of Canada (humane trap development and public information), the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (North American Waterfowl Management Plan and Critical Wildlife Habitat Program), and the Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre.

- The branch participates in various local, national, and international wildlife initiatives: Canadian Wildlife Directors' Committee, International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Arctic Goose Joint Venture, Canadian Polar Bear Administrative Committee, Canadian Co-operative Wildlife Health Centre, Mississippi Flyway Council, Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation, Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre, Wildlife Habitat Canada and Prairie Habitat Joint Venture.

Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch Web site

- The Branch web site continues to provide Manitobans with wildlife and habitat-related information and resources. Through the web, we are able to provide an overview of who we are, what we do, and how to reach us, as well as information on current issues. The web site (www.manitoba.ca/conservation/wildlife) has become an important tool for providing additional information to the public. Pertinent and current issues are profiled on the home page, and all branch programs are available through the navigation bar.

- Big game hunting statistics were updated to reflect the latest year's hunting stats. This section of the website functions as a resource for those interested in big game population trends and harvest statistics in various areas of the province.

- People wishing to visit the Narcisse snake dens during peak emergence (spring) and return periods (fall) continue to use the website as a resource. Status reports on snake numbers and den activity are updated every few days during the peak periods, giving prospective visitors an idea of what they will see and when is the best time to plan a trip to the dens. The Narcisse pages now include maps and brochures as well as current information.

General Extension

- During 2005/06, displays were staffed at Rural Forum, Manitoba Grazing School, Manitoba Conservation Districts Annual Meeting, Dauphin Forage and Beef Days and the Royal Manitoba Winter Fair.

- Staff continued to participate in the Manitoba Envirothon by preparing test questions and assisting with the field day and oral competition components. Envirothon is an annual Olympic-style academic and environmental program for high school students (Grades 9-12). The students are tested in four discipline areas (aquatics, forestry, soils and wildlife) and an annual theme (last year's: Managing Cultural Landscapes). The event was held at Winnipeg and 27 Manitoba school teams participated. Fairholme School from Portage won the event and, in July 2005, represented Manitoba at the International Canon Envirothon in Missouri, USA.

National Wildlife Week

- National Wildlife Week was celebrated during April 10-16, 2005. This event was co-ordinated with the Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF). The theme selected for 2005 was "Explore and Embrace a Special Wild Place."

- Teacher kits were purchased from CWF and were distributed to all elementary schools in Manitoba.

Legislation

- ***The Wildlife Act*** was amended to restrict the use of poison in the protection property, to implement a new fee and to clarify officer powers in the areas of special enforcement techniques and wild animal control.

- Six ministerial regulations under ***The Wildlife Act*** were amended to reflect changes required for hunting and trapping seasons and to provide increased protection to Manitoba wildlife in the area of disease transmission.

- One new ministerial regulation under ***The Wildlife Act*** was completed to provide for the administration and collection of a new fee implemented under the ***Act***.

Wildlife Permits

The Branch administers permits and licences required under ***The Wildlife Act*** and ***The Endangered Species Act***. Subject to federal guidelines, CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna) Export Permits required under the ***Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act*** are also issued.

Table WI.1
Wildlife Permits Issued, 2005

Provincial Permits	
Dead Wild Animal Possession Permit (educational)	9
Dead Wild Animal Possession Permit (personal)	123
Applications Denied (dead wild animal)	6
Disabled Hunter Permit (permanent)	45
Disabled Hunter Permit (discharge firearm)	9
Disabled Hunter Permit (revoked)	0
Applications Denied (disabled hunter)	18
Dog Trainer's Licence (non-resident)	2
Dog Training Club Licence	3
Exotic Animal Import Permit	0
Field Trial Permit	1
Live Exotic Animal Possession Permit	1
Live Wild Animal Possession Permit	10
Power Boat in Marsh Permit	1
Serve Meat of Wild Animal Permit	2
Species At Risk Permit	4
Use Vehicle Off Designated Route Permit	1
Wild Animal Capture Permit	3
Wild Animal Export Permit	1616
Wild Animal Import Permit	13
Wild Animal Kill Permit	0
Wild Animal Part Dealer Permit	17
Wildlife Scientific Permit	25
Applications Denied (all others)	1
Game Bird Farm License	12
Game Bird Shooting Preserve License	2
Taxidermist License	66
Tanner's License	5
Total (Provincial Permits):	**1995**
Federal Permits	
CITES Export Permit	1185
Total (Federal Permits):	**1185**

Table WI.2
12.4(g)1 Administration

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	448.5	9.00	474.8	(26.3)	
Other Expenditures	353.2		367.9	(14.7)	
Grant Assistance	207.0		207.0	0.0	
Total 12.4(g)1	**1,008.7**	**9.00**	**1,049.7**	**(41.0)**	

unting Opportunities

he long-standing traditions and values associated with hunting provide a framework for Manitoba Conservation's unting program. This is reflected in the department's commitment to ensure that hunting opportunities continue to be vailable for all Manitobans, and that hunting has a positive future in the province.

onservation is the first priority of wildlife management. However, when additional hunting opportunities are ustainable, and stakeholder consultation is supportive, they are introduced as part of the department's annual process reviewing hunting regulations.

he following changes to the hunting program were introduced in 2005/06.

- In consultation with the municipalities in the Winnipeg Region of the Association of Rural Municipalities, the department initiated the development of a strategy to manage wildlife in the near-urban environment. Initially, the Near Urban Wildlife Strategy will address safety concerns expressed by several municipalities, while preserving hunting opportunities. Future emphasis will be directed at managing expanding wildlife populations and related human/wildlife conflicts in the urban-agricultural setting around Winnipeg.
- One of the youth hunting opportunities supported by the branch is the mentored wild turkey hunt, a program initiated and delivered by several non-government conservation organizations and countless volunteers. To complement the Youth Wild Turkey Licence, party hunting provisions were introduced in 2005/06. This will allow hunters to spend more time participating in this unique season.
- The caribou season in Game Hunting Area 1 was extended to the last day in February. This change allowed hunters greater access to the area on winter roads, which are often not open until mid-January.
- Sunday hunting for big game was expanded to Game Hunting Area 25 in 2005. The department is likely to expand Sunday hunting to additional GHAs based on the results of ongoing stakeholder consultation.
- Vehicle use in Game Hunting Area 5 was liberalized by changing it from the Restricted Vehicle Use Zone to the Roads, Trails, and Waterways Zone. This allowed hunters to access new areas and improve hunter success.
- All restrictions on the harvest of Canada geese by resident hunters were removed in 2005. This action by the department serves to reaffirm the continuing priority for resident hunters.
- In 2005/06, the branch produced and distributed 110,000 hunting guides and 7,000 designated route maps.

terfowl Management

- Manitoba Conservation continues to develop and deliver provincial wildlife management programs that protect the integrity of the resource and associated habitats while, at the same time, providing for a variety of uses by the public. Management of Manitoba's waterfowl and wetland resources has been accomplished through direct delivery of the Branch's programs; as well as partnerships involving non-government wildlife organizations, municipalities, conservation groups, provincial and federal government departments, and interested individuals.

- Managed habitats such as wildlife management areas (WMA), provincial parks and natural wetlands are vital to providing places for the public to view and interact with wildlife. Manitoba Conservation has recognized the benefits of preserving and enhancing these habitats and through direct management, provides safe and accessible areas for public use. WMAs such as Oak Hammock WMA attract large numbers of ducks and geese and receive thousands of visitors each year.

- The demand for opportunities to interact with wildlife includes consumptive uses such as subsistence use and hunting. Programs directed at recruiting game bird hunters have been expanded to provide more opportunities for Manitoba residents to participate in recreational and subsistence hunting of waterfowl resources. Mentored youth waterfowl hunting programs are now being offered in several regions of the province in cooperation with volunteer groups and interest and participation continue to grow. In addition, special waterfowl hunting areas have been created for residents of Manitoba only. The intent is to provide places where residents can hunt without competition from non-resident hunters and to help landowners to reduce crop damage from staging waterfowl.

- Conflicts between wildlife and humans have been on the increase for several years, particularly in urban areas. The Department has continued to develop and deliver programs that will reduce the negative impacts of over-abundant wildlife species. These initiatives include expanded hunting opportunities, increased support for mentored youth hunts, experimental studies involving new deterrent techniques, and increased scaring activities at problem sites. Within urban centres, these programs have been utilized to reduce the impact of high numbers of geese where concern for human health and safety is increasing.

- Manitoba continues to influence local and regional waterfowl management through participation and input into local, national and international working groups such as the Urban Goose Working Group and the Mississippi Flyway Council.

Upland Game Bird Management

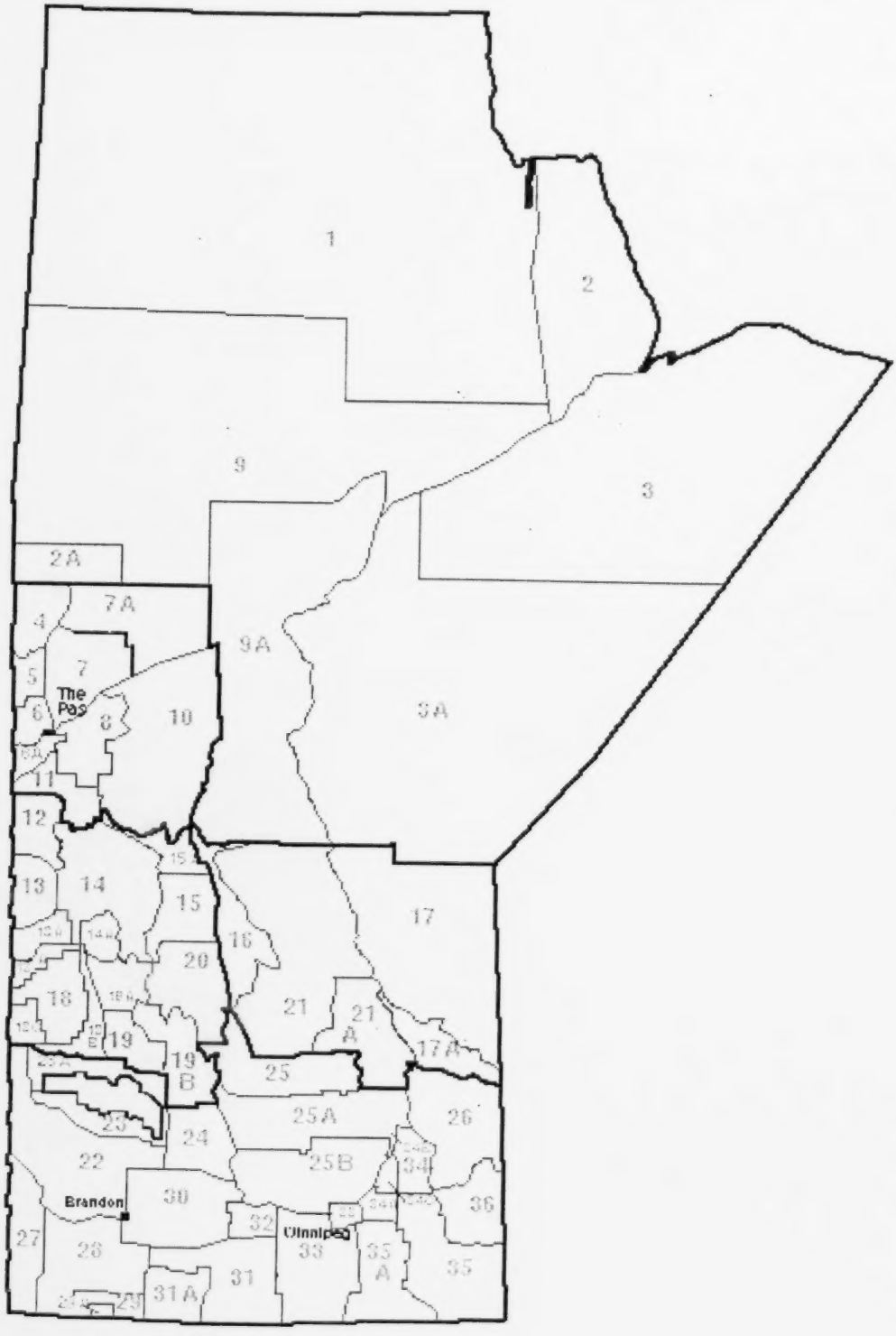
- Population trends for most upland game birds in Manitoba indicate that, where habitat has been maintained, numbers of birds remain relatively stable. Spring weather conditions during nesting and rearing periods has a decisive influence on population status. A late spring and wet conditions have reduced overall production by upland game birds, particularly ruffed grouse and sharp-tailed grouse. However, due to the widespread distribution of grouse in Manitoba, the provincial population remains stable. Maintenance of provincial wildlife management areas has been beneficial to upland populations.

- Wild turkey populations continue to prosper in southern Manitoba with numbers now exceeding 5,000 birds. Interest in turkeys and turkey hunting has grown. The Department continued to work closely with Wild Gobblers Unlimited and the National Wild Turkey Federation to remove and relocate problem turkeys from urban areas and rural communities. Expansion of the population into new areas of the province has been accomplished through transplanting of problem birds.

Figure 7.

Game Hunting Areas

Sections represent Area boundaries of Province Hunting Areas.



White-Tailed Deer

- Although there was above average snowfall, it did not accumulate until later in the year which resulted in average deer winter mortality. Deer densities were moderate to high across much of the southern half of the province. High numbers in the Red River Valley continue to result in substantial damage to speciality crops and landscape plantings. A second Deer Licence was available in areas south and northeast of Winnipeg. A third Deer Licence was offered for Deer Zone F, which includes the Red River Valley.

Table WI.3

Deer Hunting Licences Sold

Licence Type	2005/06	2004/05
Resident rifle season	28,519	29,599
Resident bow hunting	2,883	2,806
Resident muzzleloader	8,427	7,645
Resident second deer	7,540	7,251
Resident third deer	150	132
Non-resident/Canadian deer	650	724
Non-resident/non-Canadian deer	1,479	1,602

Black Bear

- Populations are stable or growing, indicating that current hunting intensity (3,200 hunters) is sustainable. Over the last three years, resident and non-resident participation has remained constant, about 1,300 and 1,900 hunters respectively. Non-resident participation is managed by quota allocations to outfitters and is reviewed every three years. Quality experiences, such as a 75 per cent success rate and a reputation for big bears with a range of colour phases, attract non-resident hunters.

- Direct measurement of populations is difficult. Consequently, indirect methods are used to detect changes in densities, such as field observations by staff, hunters and outfitters; hunter success rates; and sex ratio and age distribution of harvest. A computer model, using hunter harvest data and biological samples from hunters and outfitters, is used to evaluate harvest levels to ensure sustainability. Female reproductive tracts are examined to determine the number of foetal attachment(s) and premolar teeth provide their age - these data are used to calculate age at onset and frequency of lactation, and to monitor the potential orphaning rate resulting from the spring harvest of female bear.

Moose

- Moose populations remained low in the Turtle Mountain and Duck Mountain due to the slow recovery of these populations from losses to winter tick infestations in the past. Moose population in the Riding Mountain area are increasing. Moose populations in other areas of the province have remained fairly stable, although below carrying capacity. Discussions continued with First Nations regarding long-term harvest strategies.

- In 2005/06, 4,542 (4,604 in 2004/05) resident licences and 144 (153 in 2004/05) non-resident moose licences were sold.

Elk

- Province-wide, the number of elk has decreased slightly. The Duck Mountain and Porcupine Hills herds remain below optimum because of increased hunting that slowed recovery after the elk capture program in late 1990s. The Spruce Woods population remains at about 600. The South Interlake herd has increased, and is now higher than its population goal of 1,000. This elk population was estimated to be 1,180, up approximately five per cent from the previous estimate of 1,119, in 2000. Based on the survey results, the number of draw licences available for the 2006 fall and winter elk seasons have been increased. In the Riding Mountain area, a total of 1,700 elk were observed during the 2006 survey, down from 1,981 animals in 2005. A three-year running-average population estimate for this elk herd is approximately 2,300.

- Because of the concern about bovine tuberculosis transmission to cattle, hunting seasons and licence quotas have been used as measures to reduce elk numbers within the Riding Mountain region. Now that the population reduction target has been achieved, licence quotas will be adjusted to maintain the population at about 2,500 animals.

- In 2005/06, 3,370 elk licences were sold for rifle, archery, and landowner seasons.

Caribou

- Populations of barren-ground caribou are stable or increasing, while coastal herds (Cape Churchill and Penn Island ranges) are stable. There were 758 resident and 223 non-resident licences sold. The non-resident season in Game Hunting Area 1 benefits the northern communities and lodges, where employment opportunities are limited. Accommodations, guiding and outfitting are primary income-generating services with spin-offs to other sectors.

Diseases in Wildlife

- Bovine tuberculosis (TB) is an Old World disease that was brought to North America by infected cattle and can be transferred to a variety of wildlife species. Although there has been evidence of low-level presence of bovine tuberculosis in the Riding Mountain area in white - tailed deer and elk, in 2005, bovine TB has not been detected in any wildlife species. This has positive implications for agriculture, wildlife management and human health.

- The Department, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, and Parks Canada Agency, the main program partners, have completed the fifth year of a five-year Action Plan for Bovine TB Management in Manitoba, which features expanded surveillance, scientific studies to understand disease dynamics, disease containment, and eradication. Collectively the agencies form the Bovine TB Task Group and are currently reviewing past work and planning for future endeavours.

- Over 8,400 elk and deer samples have been examined in these areas between 1997 and 2005. Thirty elk from the western portion of the Riding Mountain region, seven white-tailed deer harvested in the Grandview area and one elk from the Duck Mountain area have tested positive for the disease over the eight years of monitoring but none in 2005.

- Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a fatal neurological disease affecting the deer family (cervids), including elk, white - tailed deer and mule deer. This disease has been found in captive deer and elk in Saskatchewan, Alberta, and several states, and in wild deer in Saskatchewan, Alberta and several states, with recent positives being found in the eastern states of New York and West Virginia. The Department will remain vigilant in efforts to prevent the disease from spreading into the province. The Department will also continue to monitor and consult with jurisdictions that have the disease, regarding research, management activities and control practices.

- From 2001 to 2006, the CWD surveillance program tested over 2,590 hunter-harvested white-tailed deer samples along the Saskatchewan and United States borders in south-western and southern Manitoba and over 1,590 elk samples from Riding Mountain and Duck Mountain areas.

- To date, CWD has not been detected in Manitoba's wild or captive cervids. Containment efforts in Saskatchewan and Alberta were monitored. Several other initiatives were undertaken to prevent the introduction of the disease into Manitoba. These initiatives include a ban on the possession and use of any substance that contains materials from cervids and restrictions on the importation of live and dead cervids from other jurisdictions.

Non-resident Hunting Licence Allocation Program

- In 2005, some 2,100 bear licences, 1,500 non-resident deer licences, 220 non-resident caribou licences, and 150 moose licences were purchased by non-resident alien hunters.

Big Game Monitoring

- The dynamics of big game populations are evaluated each year to provide input to decisions on hunting seasons and other management tasks. There are three main categories of information, gathered through the following activities:
  - Winter aerial surveys to estimate abundance, sex and age composition, recruitment and distribution.
  - Mail questionnaires to estimate harvests, hunter effort and hunter distribution.
  - Biological specimen collection to assess age and reproductive status.

  The data is entered into computer simulations (models) to estimate the consequences of alternative management plans.

Aerial Surveys

- The 2005/06 aerial survey program focused on estimating the number of elk in Game Hunting Areas (GHAs) 21, 25 and 25A, moose in GHAs 8 and 26, and deer in GHAs 18, 18A, 18B, 18C and 38.

- GHA 21, 25 and 25A – (Interlake Region): The elk population was estimated to be 1,180, up approximately five per cent from the previous estimate of 1,119 in 2,000. Based on the survey results, the number of draw licences was increased for the 2006 fall and winter elk seasons. This management initiative is expected to reduce the population to the target level of 1,000 animals.

- GHA 8 – (North-western Region): The moose population was estimated to be 719, up approximately 35 per cent from the previous estimate of 466, in 1999. In 1999, GHA 8 was closed to moose hunting because of the low population estimate. Based on the 2005 population estimate, the area will be re-opened to licensed moose hunters with a limited number of draw licences available in the fall of 2006.

- GHA 26 – (Eastern Region): The 2005 survey indicates that the moose population has decreased from when it was last surveyed in 1999. Information on the status of the moose population will be shared with the Region's Committee for Moose Management, a local committee that has been instrumental in conceptualizing a co-operative management project referred to as the Managed Moose Hunting Concept. Two First Nations are already in the process of holding workshops to determine community interest in moving the co-operative management project forward. The survey information will provide biological supporting data for these workshops, as well as for recommending management actions.

- GHA 18, 18A, 18B and 18C (Western Region): This was the first time that an aerial deer survey was undertaken in the Duck Mountain area and the resulting population estimate was 5,471. The estimate is equal to approximately 0.75 deer/sq. mile. Consequently, a second deer (anter-less) licence has been added to provide additional hunting opportunities in the Duck Mountain area,.

- GHA 38 (Winnipeg): The 2005 survey was a total population estimate for deer in and around Winnipeg. A total of 1,788 deer were counted within the Perimeter Highway and in nearby rural municipalities. Within GHA 38, the deer population was estimated at 1,166. The number of deer currently in the city is likely the highest it has been. The perimeter highway forms the boundary for GHA 38. There are no deer hunting seasons within this GHA. Natural predators are largely absent within the City. Therefore, vehicle accidents and dogs running at-large account for most annual mortality. Feeding by the public and mild winters has contributed to the increase in the deer population.

Hunter Questionnaires, Big Game Seasons

- The analysis of the questionnaires sent out the previous year occurs early in each fiscal year, i.e. results reported in a given year are for the year before. In 2004-05, approximately 30,000 questionnaires were mailed and 13,000 responses received. The results are summarized below.

Table WI.4
Resident Hunter Big Game Harvest, 2004-2005

Season	Licences Sold	Estimated Harvest
Deer rifle	29,599	20,267
Deer archery	2,806	1,075
Deer muzzleloader	7,645	4,972
Deer (antlerless) second	7,251	4,943
Moose rifle	3,050	557
Moose (conservation)	232	39
Moose (draw) rifle	1,241	159
Moose archery	157	6
Moose (draw) archery	40	10
Elk (draw) rifle	2,181	255
Elk (draw) archery	785	73
Elk (draw) landowner	490	121
Black Bear	1,301	507

The questionnaires for the 2005-06 year were mailed and will be analyzed for inclusion in 2006-07 report.

Biological Specimen Collection

- The Section collects biological samples from hunters, who provide teeth and reproductive tracts from black bears. Crests are offered in appreciation for submission of teeth and belt buckles for female reproductive tracts. These rewards encourage submission of samples which is estimated to be 67 per cent of the bear harvest. An analysis of the 2004 specimens found:
  - 333 female and 980 male pre-molars were aged: average age for females was 6.38 years (oldest aged was 33.3 years in 2003) and for males, 4.77 years (oldest aged was 29.5 years in 1996).
  - reproductive tracts have not yet been examined.

Problem Wildlife

- The expanded Problem Beaver Management Program, consisting of the summer removal and winter subsidy components, was implemented. This program offered a subsidy of $15.00 per beaver taken from designated municipalities and registered trapline districts. The winter subsidy encourages proactive harvest in problem areas during the trapping season when the pelts have market value. The summer removal program addresses beaver problems by encouraging their removal after the trapping season is closed. Municipalities with the greatest beaver problems are in the Western Region around Riding Mountain National Park and the Duck Mountains. The program was expanded this year to include non-lethal methods to address problem beaver. This included the construction and installation of pond levellers and beaver deceivers. As well, problem beaver management workshops were offered in chronic problem areas. One of these was delivered in co-operation with the Intermountain Conservation District.

- The Wildlife Crop Damage Compensation Program, administered by Manitoba Agriculture Service Corporation (MASC), reimburses producers 80 per cent of the assessed value for wildlife damages to beehives and produce, for deer, elk and bear damage to crops and property, and for livestock loss or injuries from predators such as wolves. Compensation paid for damages caused by 114 deer claims and 107 elk claims to standing crops and stored hay amounted to $230,964, while 241 black bear claims accounted for an additional $299,773. Due to an early grain harvest 2005 was a relatively light year for waterfowl crop damage compensation as it decreased to $342,400 compared to the previous year when it was $1,015,100. Damage by black bears to leafcutter bee operations totalled $67,600 while damage to honey operations increased substantially from $83,500 to $198,300.

- This was the ninth year for the Predator/Livestock Damage Compensation Program. The number of predator claims increased from 858 to 1,139 for a total of $342,400 paid in compensation.

- Over 160,000 Canada geese staged inside the perimeter highway around the City of Winnipeg last fall. Staff fielded calls from the public about property damage and health risks from goose droppings. There is also a continued high level of concern for the possibility of aircraft collisions with geese that could result in a serious accident. The Urban Goose Working Group continued to investigate the problem and identified several measures to mitigate or reduce the potential for accidents by deterring the geese from using urban ponds and storm water retention ponds.

- Through the Canadian Wildlife Directors Committee, Manitoba has requested that a national management strategy be developed that addresses urban migratory bird management. Manitoba expends over $10,000 per year to address the problems but it continues to grow.

- Another emerging issue is the matter of deer in an urban environment particularly Winnipeg and those rural municipalities within the capital region. The department conducted aerial surveys of the Birds Hill Provincial Park and area, the City of Winnipeg and surrounding areas. Between Birds Hill and Winnipeg over 2,000 white-tailed deer were observed, of which 1,188 were within the city. There are few natural predators in the region. The major mortality factor is vehicle collisions - 363 deer collisions were reported to Manitoba Public Insurance (MPIC) last year. In one area of Charleswood, the citizens of the community have formed a committee to review the matter of deer in their community. Manitoba Conservation and the City of Winnipeg staff have provided technical assistance.

- Staff from Manitoba Conservation also participates on the "Manitoba Wildlife Collision Stakeholders Committee" that includes representatives from Manitoba Public Insurance Corporation (MPIC), City of Winnipeg, Manitoba Transportation and Government Services, and the Association Manitoba Municipalities. Wildlife-vehicle collisions have become a major concern. As some wildlife population numbers increase the number of collisions is also expected to increase. The role of the committee is to facilitate discussions and identify and develop solutions that if implemented would reduce the number of collisions.

- Staff also represent the department on the Manitoba Road Safety Coordinating Committee (MRSCC) that has been established as the central coordinating body to address the significant human and socio-economic costs of road-related injuries and fatalities in Manitoba. Since wildlife account for over 10,000 accident claims in Manitoba, the department is involved in addressing this form of accident.

- An implementation plan for a Manitoba Bear Smart initiative is being developed and forwarded to the Department Executive for approval. The goal of Bear Smart is to teach people how to reduce conflicts with black bears thereby safeguarding human welfare and property. The initiative proposes three phases: 1) education and awareness; 2) a pilot study to identify the most effective strategies to encourage Bear Smart behaviour over the long-term; and 3) the positive outcomes derived from the study will be showcased to other Manitoba communities wishing to reduce conflict with bears. The branch developed signage, printed and visual material in advance of the launch in 2006. Bear Smart workshops were held in twelve communities in the Interlake and Eastern regions.

Furbearer Management

The program helps to sustain populations of furbearers and promotes optimum harvests and economic, social, and cultural returns to trappers and their families. Both furbearer production and the number of each species sold by trappers are monitored. The program encourages humane trapping and promotes education and public understanding of furbearer management and the fur industry. Note that harvest and licence/permit information is based on the Fur Year, September 1, 2004 to August 31, 2005.

- Marten are the most valuable and numerous furbearing species taken by trappers in Manitoba. The harvest in 2004/05 was the second highest in recent history at 27,664 animals, compared to 20,059 animals in the previous year. In the last two decades this species appears to have re-occupied most available habitats in Manitoba. Now marten numbers and the size of the harvest seem to be correlated with prey availability. As expected, the number of prey declined significantly in the summer and fall of 2004 which caused marten to disperse as they searched for food. As a result, they were more easily baited, which significantly increased the harvest for the Fur Year 2004/05. Given the time for prey numbers to rebound, the population cycle may be

three to four years long, so a significant drop in 2005/06 marten harvest is expected. The same pattern was seen following the record harvest in 2000/01.

- Lynx cycles continue to recover from the very low numbers in the 1980s. The current cycle peaked in the last two seasons and this was reflected in the number of sightings, especially in southern Manitoba. The 2004/05 provincial harvest of 1,006 lynx was down from 1,060 the previous year. The species has recently reached the top of its 10-year population cycle and is beginning to decline. The lynx harvest will continue to be closely monitored and action may be taken as its population cycle begins its predictable downward trend over the next few years.

- Coyote harvests were similar to previous years because of good numbers and in spite of reduced prices for coyote pelts. The numbers taken were down slightly in 2004/05 to 7,931 compared to the precious year's harvest of 8,378.

- Red fox populations remained relatively steady and the harvest was good (2,549) in spite of slightly lower prices.

- A significant decrease occurred in otter harvest (1,664 in 2004/05 from 3,071) as poor travel conditions made it hazardous for trappers and hampered trapping efforts. Prices remained strong.

- The arctic fox harvest peaked at 514 animals after a prolonged depression related to a low lemming population.

- Continued poor prices for beaver pelt (average of $25.41) caused the harvest to remain low at 17,551. At the same time, populations remain high, which results in significant problem incidents. The Problem Beaver Management Program, which subsidizes municipalities for problem beaver control, is credited for keeping the harvest higher than it would have been. A lower beaver harvest would allow populations to increase and exacerbate flooding that damages municipal, provincial and private property.

- Wolverine populations are believed to be stable-to-increasing, especially along the east side of Lake Winnipeg.

- The bobcat harvest remained high, relative to the historic harvest, with 19 taken in 2004/05. Their population increase follows a similar trend in North Dakota and Minnesota. This species is at the northern extent of its range in Manitoba.

- Trapping licence/permit sales reached 6,881 in 2004/05. This figure included 160 free Youth Trapping Licences/Permits, an increase from 145 the previous year. Trapper education graduates aged 12 – 17 join other jurisdictions in this no-fee program for youth trappers.

- Staff worked with the Fur Institute of Canada's Trap Research and Development Committee on humane trapping devices and manufacturing standards. All approved devices are annually listed in the *Manitoba Trapping Guide*, along with the timetable for implementation of the Canada-Russia-European Union Agreement on International Humane Trapping Standards. Staff from Manitoba Conservation and the Manitoba Trappers Association contributed to the National Trapper Education Course Guidelines, which were developed through the Fur Institute of Canada and released in 2004.

- Considerable effort was again put into education services in 2005/06. Similar to the previous year, 280 students completed the Mandatory Trapper Education Program. Workshops were held in Brochet, Cross Lake, Good Hope Colony, Hollow Water, Lac du Bonnet, Lynn Lake, Manitou, Moose Lake, Nelson House, Norway House, Oxford House, Pelican Rapids, Pine Falls, Snow Lake, South Indian Lake, Thompson, Tramping Lake and Waterhen.

- In May 2005 the branch facilitated a process that lead to the development of four curricula towards "Re-Connecting with the Land." The curricula focus on Community Studies, Fishing, Hunting and Trapping and were submitted to Manitoba Education, Youth and Citizenship for approval. The curricula were developed primarily for use in Aboriginal communities but can be incorporated in any school in Manitoba. The curricula are intended to be tailored to a community's history and traditions. In-kind contributions by members of the Working Group were supplemented by a contribution of $50,000 from the Manitoba Northern Development

Strategy. Development of the curricula was co-chaired by the Fur Institute of Canada and the Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Council. There has been considerable support for its continued development from individual First Nations, schools and the Manitoba Assembly of Chiefs.

- Workshop instructors for all trapper education events are from the Department and the Manitoba Trappers Association (MTA). Tramping Lake Field Station was used by staff and students from University College of the North Resource Management Program. The Model Forest provided funds for the renovations to the Wallace Lake Field Station so it can also be used for workshops.

Table WI.5
12.4(g)2 Game, Fur and Problem Wildlife Management

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	764.7	11.29	655.2	109.5	1.
Other Expenditures	438.5		436.6	1.9	
Grant Assistance	89.90		89.9	0.0	
Total 12.4(g)2	**1,293.1**	**11.29**	**1,181.7**	**111.4**	

1. Increase in Salaries and Employee Benefits is due to retirement severance and vacation pay.

Table WI.6
Fur Statistics, Year ending 31 August 2005

Species	Quantity	Average Price $	Production Value $	% of Total Value	Royalty Per Pelt	Royalty $
Badger	125	35.00	4,375	0.1	0.50	63
Bear	1,057	59.29	62,670	2.0	1.00	1,057
Beaver	17,551	25.41	445,971	14.3	0.50	8,776
Bobcat	19	97.33	1,849	0.1	1.00	19
Coyote	7,968	34.04	271,231	8.7	1.00	7,968
Ermine	1,898	3.25	6,169	0.2	0.05	95
Fisher	1,339	44.81	60,001	1.9	1.00	1,339
Fox, Blue	1	21.35	21	0.0	0.50	1
Fox, Cross	231	24.71	5,708	0.2	0.50	116
Fox, Red	2,259	24.71	55,820	1.8	0.50	1,130
Fox, Silver	59	24.71	1,459	0.0	0.50	30
Fox, White	513	21.35	10,953	0.4	0.50	257
Lynx	1,006	151.81	152,721	4.9	1.00	1,006
Marten	27,664	58.40	1,615,578	52.0	1.00	27,664
Mink	2,803	21.30	59,704	1.9	0.50	1,402
Muskrat	8,207	2.28	18,712	0.6	0.05	410
Otter	1,664	152.52	253,793	8.2	0.75	1,248
Raccoon	2,646	12.17	32,202	1.0	0.50	1,323
Squirrel	2,874	0.97	2,788	0.1	0.05	144
Wolf, Timber	330	116.83	38,554	1.2	1.00	330
Wolverine	48	177.48	8,519	0.3	2.50	120
Total			$3,108,794			$54,494

Notes: **1.** The Department's Fur Year runs from September 1 - August 31. Starting with the 1995/96 ***Annual Report***, statistics that relate to the Fur Year are based the most recent complete Fur Year. The 2005/06 ***Annual Report*** will contain information on the 2004/05 Fur Year Ending August 31, 2005.

Table WI.7

Trappers and Value of Wild Fur Production 1993/94 to 2004/05

Year	Open Area Trappers (#)	Registered Trapline Trappers (#)	Estimated Production Value ($)
1993-94	5,546	1,818	2,694,978
1994-95	5,611	1,993	2,539,052
1995-96	6,336	1,865	2,639,452
1996-97	4,827	1,975	3,715,834
1997-98	5,315	2,049	3,306,968
1998-99	4,750	1,856	2,037,022
1999-00	4,276	1,669	1,967,404
2000-01	4,355	1,827	2,769,981
2001-02	4,958	1,764	2,448,804
2002-03	5,503	1,668	2,998,159
2003-04	5,817	1,708	3,039,009
2004-05	5,174	1,707	3,108,794

Notes: 1. The Department's Fur Year runs from September 1 - August 31. Starting with the 1995-96 **Annual Report**, statistics that relate to the Fur Year are based the most recent complete Fur Year. The 2005-06 **Annual Report** will contain information on the 2004/05 Fur Year Ending August 31, 2005.

Table WI.8
Hunting Licences Sold

Type of Licence	Fee $	Number Sold	Revenue $
Game Bird			
Resident of Manitoba	19.63	9,847	183,962.61
Non-resident (Canadian)	74.77	577	42,646.29
Non-resident (Non-Canadian)	140.19	5,442	757,309.65
Wild Turkey			
Resident of Manitoba	20.56	826	16,260.56
Resident of Manitoba - Youth	4.67	65	251.55
Moose			
Resident of Manitoba	46.73	4,410	203,310.30
Resident of Manitoba – Conservation	37.39	252	9,205.02
Non-resident (Canadian)	271.03	10	2,703.30
Non-resident (Non-Canadian)	327.10	152	49,567.20
Elk			
Resident of Manitoba	46.73	3,370	157,480.10
Caribou			
Resident of Manitoba	42.06	506	21,282.36
Resident of Manitoba – Second	93.46	252	23,551.92
Non-Resident (Non-Canadian)	327.10	121	39,458.10
Non-Resident (Non-Canadian) – Second	327.10	102	33,262.20
Black Bear			
Resident of Manitoba	28.04	1,510	40,964.40
Non-resident (Canadian)	93.46	41	3,820.86
Non-resident (Non-Canadian)	196.26	2,115	412,004.60
Deer			
Resident of Manitoba	32.71	40,460	1,284,097.60
Resident of Manitoba – Second	18.69	7,541	133,668.29
Resident of Manitoba – Third	18.69	150	2,667.50
Non-resident (Canadian)	140.19	779	108,710.01
Non-resident (Non-Canadian)	196.26	1,519	295,818.90
Youth Hunting Licence Package			
Resident of Manitoba	9.35	3,444	28,869.40
Total Licence Sales			
Resident of Manitoba		72,633	2,105,571.61
Non-resident (Canadian)		1,407	157,880.46
Non-resident (Non-Canadian)		9,451	1,587,420.65
Total		83,491	3,850,872.72
Replacement	Variable	127	1,084.60
Grand Totals		83,618	3,851,957.32

Notes:

1. Revenue figures are net (less vendor's commission).
2. Non-Resident Caribou Licences are valid for both Canadian and Non-Canadian Hunters and are included with the Non-Resident (Non-Canadian) totals.
3. Resident Conservation Moose Licences are issued as a 2 Licence/1 tag package (252 licences = 126 packages).
4. A Youth Turkey Hunting Licence for Residents of Manitoba introduced in 2003.
5. A Third Deer Hunting Licence for Residents of Manitoba introduced in 2003.

Table WI.9
Hunting Licence Sales and Revenue 1994/95 to 2005/06

	Game Bird		Big Game		Totals	
Year	# Sold	Revenue $	# Sold	Revenue $	# Sold	Revenue $
1994-95	23,331	793,088.50	62,485	2,009,832.00	85,816	2,802,920.50
1995-96	24,511	848,222.00	67,883	2,210,534.00	92,394	3,058,756.00
1996-97	24,789	890,609.50	71,955	2,208,504.00	96,744	3,099,113.50
1997-98	23,446	1,056,020.70	63,668	2,402,913.96	87,114	3,458,934.66
1998-99	23,816	1,112,930.77	59,743	2,423,557.18	83,559	3,536,487.95
1999-00	22,096	1,070,616.01	67,058	2,610,746.10	89,154	3,681,362.11
2000-01	19,742	950,233.84	62,830	2,640,246.04	82,572	3,590,479.88
2001-02	18,287	824,801.91	64,407	2,659,738.55	82,694	3,484,540.46
2002-03	17,850	896,327.62	64,154	2,677,817.56	82,004	3,574,145.18
2003-04	18,747	942,929.36	64,555	2,656,659.40	83,302	3,599,588.76
2004-05	17,058	1,036,647.45	66,594	2,851,504.88	83,652	3,888,152.33
2005-06	16,757	1,000,430.66	66,861	2,851,526.66	83,618	3,851,957.32

Notes: 1. $5.00 per licence for wildlife enhancement introduced in 1997/98.
2. Second Licences for Resident and Non-Resident Caribou Hunters introduced in 1999/00.
3. Youth Hunting Licence Package for Residents of Manitoba introduced in 1999/00.
4. Youth Turkey Hunting Licence for Residents of Manitoba introduced in 2003/04.
5. Third Deer Hunting Licence for Residents of Manitoba introduced in 2003/04

Table WI.10
Wildlife Licence Revenue

Type of Licence	Revenue $
Hunting Licences	
Game Bird Licences	$983,918.55
Wild Turkey Licences	$16,512.11
Black Bear Licences	$456,789.86
Replacement Licences	$1,084.60
Caribou Licences	$117,554.58
Deer Licences	$1,824,962.30
Elk Licences	$157,480.10
Moose Licences	$264,785.82
Youth Hunting Licence Package	$28,869.40
Total – Hunting	$3,851,957.32
Commercial Licences	
Trapper Licences *	$34,663.00
Fur Dealer Licences *	$1,825.00
Tanner Licences *	$120.00
Taxidermist Licences *	$2,010.00
Shooting Preserve Licences	$0.00
Dog Trainer Licences	$125.00
Game Bird Farm Licences	$40.00
Amphibians and Reptiles Licences	$212.00
Total – Commercial	$38,995.00
Total Revenue	$3,890,952.32

* Reflects revenue for the 2004/05 Fur Year ending August 31, 2005.

Habitat Management and Ecosystem Monitoring

Wildlife Lands Unit

The Wildlife Lands Unit develops policies, plans and programs to secure, protect and enhance wildlife habitat on Crown and private land. It is responsible for the management of all lands designated for wildlife including wildlife management areas (WMAs), public shooting grounds, refuges and special conservation areas.

The Wildlife Lands Unit also directs and co-ordinates Manitoba's Heritage Marsh Program, which includes management for protection and enhancement, studies and inventories to support management recommendations, and the development of viewing, interpretive and access facilities. The Section also co-operates with Tourism Development in the provision of wildlife-viewing facilities associated with the Watchable Wildlife Program.

The following key activities were carried out in 2005/06.

Wildlife Management Area Program

- Habitat enhancement activities (e.g. control encroaching shrubs and trees on prairie sites to improve sharp-tailed grouse habitat) were carried out at several Interlake WMAs. Standard boundary signs were produced for WMAs and refuges.

- A local advisory committee was established for the Lake Francis WMA to address concerns regarding high water levels in the lake and low muskrat populations.

- Consultations were undertaken with the RM of Portage la Prairie and local First Nations regarding the potential establishment of a WMA at Delta Marsh and inclusion of the marsh in the Protected Areas Initiative.

Wildlife Management Area Maintenance

- The Wildlife Enhancement Initiative funded maintenance and enhancement of WMAs, including prairie enhancement in the Narcisse WMA and weed control in several WMAs in southwestern Manitoba.

Land Management and Use

- The Section reviewed over 500 land-use proposals to assess impacts to wildlife habitat. These included applications for general permits and leases, sales, and exchanges of Crown land, Treaty Land Entitlement and municipal development plans and zoning by-laws and amendments. Policy proposals were reviewed to evaluate impacts on wildlife, habitat, land management, and use.

Heritage Marsh Program

- The Heritage Marsh Program incorporates marshes known to be of extraordinary importance to the well being of wildlife and people. Eight Heritage Marshes are formally recognized (Saskeram, Summerberry, Delta, Oak Hammock, Rat River, Grants Lake, Proven Lake, and Lidcliff), and an additional 19 have been identified as candidate marshes.

- Support continued for research on the ecological health and future of Delta Marsh. Recognized locally and internationally as an important prairie wetland, the marsh ecosystem has undergone significant negative changes, in part due to relatively constant water levels brought on by the regulation of water levels on Lake Manitoba. Marshlands require a natural water regime that includes wet and drought cycles to maintain their biodiversity. Carp impact and vegetation studies were carried out in partnership with the University of Manitoba and Ducks Unlimited Canada.

Negotiations were undertaken to purchase an additional 31 hectare (80 acre) parcel of land for inclusion in the proposed Delta Marsh WMA.

- In co-operation with the Watchable Wildlife Program an orientation kiosk was developed for installation near the Delta Heritage Marsh sign along PR 240.

- The range of purple loosestrife, an introduced wetland species, continues to expand, threatening important marsh ecosystems. The Manitoba Purple Loosestrife Project team is chaired by the Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch and includes Ducks Unlimited Canada and the City of Winnipeg. Objectives are to control purple loosestrife through research, management, and expansion of biological control programs. Approximately 25,000 beetles were raised and released as a biological control measure in 2005.

Habitat Stewardship Unit

The Habitat Stewardship Unit is responsible for development and management of provincial projects for the federal/provincial habitat stewardship programs including Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk, management of the Agro-Manitoba Critical Wildlife Habitat Program, and administration of The Conservation Agreements Act. This Unit also provides the link between the Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch and Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (MHHC) in the delivery of habitat enhancement and protection programs.

The following key activities were carried out in 2005/06.

Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk

- Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch staff, in conjunction with a co-ordinator under contract to MHHC, is involved in implementing projects under the federal Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk (HSP) in Manitoba. Activities include development of projects, review and recommendation of project funding (as a member of the Working Group), implementation, and reporting.

- Federal funds matched a minimum of 1:1 by provincial and other partners' funds are available for projects that address the habitat stewardship needs of COSEWIC-listed species at risk (*endangered and threatened*). Approved projects target private lands, provincial Crown lands, municipal lands, and Aboriginal lands through stewardship programs delivered by various organizations to landowners, lease holders, resource users, and communities.

- In 2005/06, $883,020 in federal funding was received for HSP projects in Manitoba with $720,880 of that going to Manitoba Conservation/ Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation projects. Matching funds and in-kind contributions were provided by the province, industry and community groups, for total program value of $1,766,040.

Tall Grass Prairie Preserve

- The Department continued to chair the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve Management Committee in 2005/06. Other agencies actively involved in the preserve include Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation (MHHC), the Manitoba Naturalists Society, Environment Canada and the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC). The committee produced an annual work plan for field activities at the preserve and the Department funded some of the delivery costs. Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk, Nature Conservancy of Canada, and the Manitoba Naturalists Society supported monitoring and management activities on the preserve. The committee directs ongoing monitoring and management activities for the properties belonging to the preserve partners.

- The Section continued to cover the monitoring expenses of the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve biological staff plus a Green Team staff person who assists with field activities. Monitoring of rare orchids, insects, songbirds, permanent sample plots, and management prescriptions continued to be among the key field activities on preserve lands. In 2005/06, 6,370 flowering stems (1/3 of the number observed in 2004) and 1,312 Great Plains' ladies-tresses were counted on preserve properties and in roadside ditches in the area. Small white lady's-slippers' numbers were monitored at four permanent plots. A total of 770 plants were counted on these plots. Banding under the Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) program was not done in 2005/06 because the very small bands needed for the prairie birds were not available. Song-bird surveys were only completed in the north block because the south block was too wet. Sharp-tailed grouse surveys continued in 2005/06 and four dancing grounds were active. Overall, the local grouse population appears stable.

- Although controlled burns are used as a management tool on a rotational cycle to enhance the grassland components, only a small 60 acre parcel was burned in 2005/06 because of the wet conditions. Plant identification signs were replaced along the interpretive trail as required. Ongoing vegetation monitoring was carried out at the grazing project to determine the effects of grazing on the tall grass prairie ecosystem especially potential impacts on small white lady's-slippers. A new three-paddock grazing project was set up on the preserve and permanent plots were established to monitor the vegetative responses to grazing. Over 50 leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*) patches have been found on preserve lands and the GPS location of each has been recorded. Early in the flowering time (June 14-18) each plot was visited and any plants found were pulled out. Trees of several clones of aspen were girdled to kill the trees and in so doing, control aspen encroachment.

- Four new properties (640 acres in total) acquired recently by the Nature Conservancy of Canada were inventoried (inventory sampling and vegetation mapping) in 2005/06. Special note was made of species listed as endangered, such as the western prairie fringed orchid.

- Five onsite tours were provided to various groups during the 2005/06 season. Preserve biologists also delivered the Manitoba Naturalists Society School Program in May, June, September, and October to 11 classes from six schools in southeast Manitoba and four groups (5 classes) booked field trips to the preserve.

Mixed-grass Prairie Projects

- Inventory and grazing demonstration projects continued in the mixed-grass prairie region in the southwest area of Manitoba. The Mixed-Grass Prairie Inventory determines the status of prairie habitats in the mixed-grass region of Manitoba, including key locations of potential species at risk habitat. In 2005/06, a total of 4,073 ha (10,063 ac) of mixed-grass prairie habitat were inventoried, with 3,610 ha (8,920 ac) or about 87 per cent graded as C or better. The total mixed-grass prairie habitat inventoried through the project now stands at 72,383 ha (178,854 ac), with 43,472 ha (106,970 ac), or about 60 per cent, graded as C or better. The information is used to target habitat conservation efforts such as Conservation Agreements, which secure these habitats in perpetuity.
- The Mixed-Grass Prairie Grazing Project promotes agricultural activities that incorporate wise land stewardship and biodiversity conservation by entering into agreements with landowners to implement the twice-over rotational grazing system on native grasslands. In 2005/06 six five-year agreements were signed to enhance the condition of 1,596 acres of native grasslands. Various extension activities including a tour and a three-day workshop were held to allow landowners with native pastures to learn more about the principles behind the success of the twice-over system. The information provided at these events also demonstrates how the system can be used as a tool to enhance native grasslands to benefit wildlife and also increase livestock weight gains.

- Additional funding for both projects was provided by Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk.

Urban Habitat Stewardship Project

- The Naturescape sub-committee of the Capital Region Habitat Steering Committee, comprised of representatives from Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Naturalists Society, the City of Winnipeg, Environment Canada and Fort Whyte Centre, continued to co-ordinate the production of *Manitoba Naturescape*. The editorial and design portions of the project are complete and the book is targeted for printing in the fall of 2006. This educational book, with information on native species and project ideas, is designed to help organizations and individuals transform small urban and rural areas, including backyards, into wildlife habitat.

Ecosystem Monitoring Unit

The Ecosystem Monitoring Unit is responsible for monitoring the quality of Manitoba's terrestrial environment, which includes collecting data to determine the effects of industrial emissions and land-use changes on terrestrial ecosystem components (soil, vegetation, wildlife and habitat). Data that is collected and the extensive technical knowledge base of the staff enables the Unit to deliver scientifically based recommendations and technical support toward maintaining the quality of terrestrial ecosystems.

The following key activities were carried out in 2005/06.

- Collecting soil samples at permanent sites near Thompson to determine the deposition of particulate emissions from the Inco Smelter.
- Sampling soil/sediments to determine metal concentrations and setting up revegetation trials at the Baker Patton Mine site near Flin Flon.
- Finalizing a detailed technical report on the metal content of soil and vegetables in selected gardens in Flin Flon, Manitoba.
- Collecting and analyzing data to compare and contrast the growth of native and non-native plant species on reconstructed dykes along the Assiniboine River.
- Sampling snow at sites near Thompson and Flin Flon to determine the deposition of particulate emissions from the Inco and Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting smelters.
- Monitoring the recovery of plant communities at a boreal forest site near Pine Falls where an accidental spill of Roundup® (glyphosate) occurred in 1984.
- Sampling soil near a former scrap yard in Brandon to determine the concentration and distribution of lead and other metals and elements in the surface soil that may have originated from the site.

Environmental Impact Assessment

- In 2005/06, 59 development proposals or pre-clearances under ***The Environment Act*** were reviewed, a slight increase over 2004/05. They included wind energy projects, highway upgrades, mine closure plans, wastewater-treatment facilities, crop protection warehouses, bulk fertilizer facilities, utility corridors, and town water supplies. Several draft licences were reviewed, as well as the annual operating plans for Louisiana Pacific Canada, Tolko Manitoba, Tembec/Pine Falls Paper, and Mountain Quota Holders Association.

Mitigation of Development Impacts to Wildlife in Manitoba

- The Branch continues to participate in the Forest Practices Committee which is developing forest practices to mitigate or minimize the impacts of forestry activities on ecosystems and the habitats that support wildlife.

- Work continues on the Branch's reference document, *Mitigation of Development Impacts to Wildlife in Manitoba*. The document describes measures to mitigate disturbances on wildlife and

wildlife habitat from developments and land uses including forestry, highway and hydro construction, and mining exploration and development.

Project WILD

- Project WILD is an environmental education program, sponsored by the Canadian Wildlife Federation, emphasizing wildlife and implemented under agreements with each province's wildlife agency. Project WILD activities were developed for use in the Grade Four science curriculum. Teachers are required to attend an in-service training workshop, usually conducted jointly by a wildlife specialist and a trained workshop facilitator. Last year, four Project WILD workshops were delivered; two were held at Brandon University for the education students, one was held at the Turtle Mountain Conservation District, and one was held at Assiniboine Community College.

Table WI.11

12.4(g)3 Habitat Management and Ecosystem Monitoring

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	531.9	9.00	658.2	(126.3)	1.
Other Expenditures	72.5		72.7	(0.2)	
Grant Assistance	645.0		645.0	0.0	
Total 12.4(g)3	**1,249.4**	**9.00**	**1,375.9**	**(126.5)**	

1. Under expenditure in Salaries and Employee Benefits is due to higher than anticipated vacant positions.

Biodiversity Conservation

The section provides information and services to sustain Manitoba's natural biological diversity. It contains the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre which links Manitoba to other conservation partners and enables the province to meet its International, National and Provincial agreements to conserve biodiversity, including species at risk. The authoritative information provided by the centre is used in a variety of proactive ways, including Protected Areas Planning, Regional Integrated Resource Management, and Environmental Impact Assessment. The centre promotes the social and economic well being of Manitobans through adherence to the principles of sustainable ecological development.

Section activities are focused on three main program areas coordinated by a standardized spatial computer database maintained by the **Manitoba Conservation Data Centre.**

1. **Inventory and Monitoring** of species of conservation concern, including species listed under the *Endangered Species Act* (Manitoba) and/or the federal *Species at Risk Act.*

2. **Conservation Status Assessment** of over 4,000 species of animals and plants found in Manitoba.

3. **Recovery or Management** strategies and plans are developed and implemented for listed Species at Risk.

Other key section activities include:

4. **Policy and Procedures** development, especially for Species at Risk.

5. **Education, Research and Outreach**

These programs and activities depend on the participation and cooperation of Manitoba citizens to assist in the conservation of our natural biological diversity.

Manitoba Conservation Data Centre

The Manitoba Conservation Data Centre (CDC) is a member of NatureServe International (www.natureserve.org), a network of 80 similar centres monitoring biodiversity throughout the Western Hemisphere, and also a member of NatureServe Canada, an organization to which CDCs from all Canadian provinces and one territory belong. Information from the Canadian CDC databases is recognized by Canadian Wildlife Service and Parks Canada Agency as being a key component of their efforts to monitor and protect species at risk. The Conservation Data Centre's database of information on species at risk underwent significant upgrades in order to continue to serve as the authoritative source of information on species at risk for Manitoba. The CDC completes an annual exchange of data integrating Manitoba's data with the entire network.

The CDC responded to hundreds of information requests in 2005/06 from federal and provincial governments, consultants, Nature Conservancy Canada, Ducks Unlimited, and Natural Heritage programs in the US, secondary schools, universities, and others (organizations, industry, and individuals). Numerous requests were to provide information for environmental impact assessments. CDC information is also used in the selection process for identifying potential protected areas with the Protected Areas Initiative.

Specific highlights from 2005/06 include:

- The Manitoba CDC hosted the NatureServe Canada Annual General Meeting (AGM) in May 2005. Attendees included representatives from all Canadian Conservation Data Centres, NatureServe, NatureServe Canada, Nature Conservancy Canada, and five federal Departments, making it the largest and most diverse meeting in NatureServe Canada's history.

- The CDC, in conjunction with Nature Conservancy Canada, the Minnesota Chapter of The Nature Conservancy and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, completed a "Conservation Area Plan for the Tallgrass Aspen Parkland". The report, to be printed in fall 2006, will identify priority conservation sites and activities in an internationally significant prairie ecosystem found in southeast Manitoba and northwest Minnesota that is home to nine Manitoba species at risk.

- NatureServe has entered into data-sharing agreements with CWS and Parks Canada, which offers partnership opportunities for the CDC to access data and research funding.

- The CDC completed a successful "data mining" exercise with Parks Canada, whereby Parks Canada staff provided information on plants and animals in Riding Mountain and Wapusk National Parks, and the CDC created new and updated records in its database for those species that were of conservation concern. Over 350 new records were added to the CDC database.

- The CDC worked co-operatively with Canadian Wildlife Service on a number of projects to improve the CDC database. Achievements included the addition and/or updating of hundreds of new database records for grassland bird species at risk, and the first steps toward sharing species at risk data.

- The CDC continued to contribute information and expertise to Nature Conservancy Canada's conservation blueprint for the aspen parkland ecoregion. This exercise will guide future conservation activity by Nature Conservancy Canada, Manitoba Conservation, and other partners.

Table WI.12

Summary of information in Manitoba Conservation Data Centre's Biotics Database

Information Type	Plant	Animal	Plant Community	Animal Other[1]	Total
Number of Elements[3]	2,649	1,478	174	12	4,313
Number of Rare to Uncommon Elements	582	124	61	0	767
Number of Element Occurrences[2]	1888	1404	70	377	3,739
Number of Source Features[4]	3002	4767	70	390	8,229

1. Includes elements such as waterbird colonies, and snake and bat hibernacula.
2. A specific example of a plant, animal or vegetative community at a specific geographic location. The functional unit of the Biotics database.
3. The Element Provincial Tracking database allows information to be gathered on plant, animal, community and other elements.
4. A Source Feature is based on a discrete observation. Make up the basis of an Element Occurrence.

Inventory and Monitoring Program

Rare Plants Inventory and Monitoring

- Fieldwork was conducted at more than 144 sites to search for locations of 30 provincially rare plant species, including eight species listed under Manitoba's Endangered Species Act or Canada's Species at Risk Act. These surveys resulted in nearly 300 new records being documented in the CDC database.

Highlights in 2005/06 included:

- Rediscovery of the globally uncommon Iowa Golden Saxifrage at Duck Mountain, last collected in Manitoba in 1978;
- Rediscovery of nationally rare Geyer's Broomspurge at sandhill locations, last collected in Manitoba in 1960;
- Discovery of a new and significant population of the Small White Lady's-slipper on private land near St. Laurent;
- Establishment of a GIS-based database to track species search effort and locations where species were not found - factors critical to accurate species status assessment;
- Fostering close working relationships with private landowners – surveys included 34 private landowners or lessees, including a number whose habitats were found to support important populations of species at risk; and
- Noting the rapid expansion of the invasive exotic weed leafy spurge into biodiversity-rich native prairies of the Souris River Valley, and providing landowners with contact information for key spurge control experts and organizations.

Dragonfly Monitoring

- Manitoba citizens are continuing to help Manitoba Conservation better understand the distribution, relative abundance and conservation status of dragonflies in the province. Specimens of dragonflies submitted by volunteers from around the province have been used to further define the range of a number of species found in Manitoba. The current Manitoba list has 96 species of dragonflies from nine families. Thirteen new species have been recorded in the

province since the Manitoba Dragonfly Survey began in 1999. For more information on the dragonfly survey please visit http://www.naturenorth.com/dragonfly/survey.html.

Red-sided Garter Snake Inventory

- A program to find and map hibernacula of the Red-sided Garter Snakes at Jenpeg (north of Norway House) has been initiated in co-operation with researchers from the University of Manitoba. These populations are the northern-most for the species in Manitoba and researchers are interested in their population dynamics and habitat use. Several hibernacula have been found to date.

Least Bittern Inventories

- Manitoba Conservation supported a University of Manitoba graduate student's inventories for this Threatened marsh-dwelling bird. New occurrences of the Least Bittern were documented, including in Manitoba's Interlake region.

Breeding Bird Monitoring

- Manitoba Conservation staff promote and coordinate involvement of local volunteers in the North American Breeding Bird Survey (BBS). Extremely wet conditions during 2005 resulted in the completion of fewer routes than normal. Nevertheless, there was considerable bird species diversity with 226 species found on 39 routes. The BBS assesses changes in abundance and distribution of birds along predetermined routes that are surveyed using standard protocol at the same time of the year and by the same individuals each year. It is especially useful for assessing the status of songbird species that are not monitored adequately by other surveys. Local and national BBS data reveal that more species are increasing than decreasing in numbers. The data also reveals that certain groups, such as grassland-nesting species, have undergone particularly large and in many cases significant declines since BBS surveys began in 1966.

Great Gray Owl Monitoring

- Fifty Great Gray Owls and 13 Northern Hawk Owls were banded in the boreal forests of southeast Manitoba during the winter of 2004/05, but none were found breeding during the 2005 nesting period, corresponding with low populations of their main prey, the meadow vole. Both owl species are susceptible to West Nile Virus and ongoing monitoring efforts provide baseline data to assess the potential impact of this disease on birds of prey in Manitoba and elsewhere.

Nocturnal Owl Monitoring

- The Manitoba Volunteer Nocturnal Owl Survey had another successful year with 102 volunteers surveying 102 routes covering 1,067 kilometres of roads and trails. Surveyors detected 135 owls or 0.13 owls detected per km surveyed. On average, one owl was detected every eight kilometres. As in previous years, the two most abundant species detected were the Great Horned Owl and the Northern Saw-whet Owl. The detection rates (number per km) for Great Horned and Boreal Owls dropped this year while those of other species (Barred Owl) increased. Other species, such as the Northern Saw-whet, continue to fluctuate over the same period. Great Gray Owls and some other species remained fairly constant. Sharing this information with others may help us learn if these trends are local or more widespread across the species' North American range.

- This survey has come a long way since 1991 thanks to the participation of over 600 volunteer owl surveyors to date. 2005 marked the 15th anniversary of this effort which demonstrated the value of citizen-based science monitoring programs. The conservation status of all Manitoba birds was reassessed in October 2005 by Manitoba Conservation with assistance from Environment Canada and over 20 naturalists and biologists – the Manitoba owl survey data was very helpful in providing unique trend and range owl data towards this effort. As in other years, owl survey

information and experience has been widely shared with the public, students, other provinces and countries.

Woodland Caribou Monitoring

- A monitoring program for woodland caribou on the Kississing-Naosap range in the northwest region continues. Geographical Positioning System (GPS) radio collars placed on animals in 2004/05 were removed, the stored data downloaded (the collars were not re-deployed). The data collected will be analyzed and used to further conservation efforts for this population.

- An integrated woodland caribou/forest management plan which Manitoba Conservation developed in partnership with Tembec Industries (Pine Falls Operations), the Manitoba Model Forest, First Nation communities and other partners, continues to be implemented on Owl-Flintstone Lakes range (east of Lake Winnipeg). GPS collars were removed from animals on this range as well as the Atikaki-Berens range and the data downloaded. Collars were redeployed and will be removed in the winter of 2006/07.

Conservation Status Assessment Program

Endangered Species Advisory Committee

- The Biodiversity Conservation Section prepares wildlife species status reports for the Endangered Species Advisory Committee, established under ***The Endangered Species Act,*** to advise the Minister on species at risk. Declaring a species as Extirpated, Endangered or Threatened affords it protection, thereby enhancing its likelihood of survival in Manitoba. Population numbers and trends, distribution, habitat needs, and threats are criteria used to assess the conservation status of species. No new species were declared as Extirpated, Endangered, or Threatened under the Act in 2005/06.

Federal-Provincial Initiatives under Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk in Canada

- Participation on international and federal-provincial working groups and committees ensures that Manitoba's efforts to assess and conserve biological diversity are co-ordinated with those of other countries and Canadian jurisdictions. Implementing programs for species at risk and biodiversity demonstrates Manitoba's commitment to the Accord and the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy.

- The **Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC)**: Departmental staff, and staff from Water Stewardship participate in this national assessment process to determining which species are at risk by reviewing and contributing to status reports.

- **Report on the General Status of Wildlife in Canada**: In 1998, the Canadian Endangered Species Conservation Council requested that federal and provincial/territorial governments co-operate to assess and report on general status of wildlife (including plants) every five years, starting in 2000. A federal-provincial working group was established. Work is underway towards producing the 2005 report (to be released in 2006). The 2005 report will include assessments of all vascular plants, amphibians, reptiles, birds, freshwater and marine fishes, and mammals, as well as selected groups of invertebrates including dragonflies, tiger beetles, butterflies, freshwater mussels, and crayfish. A significant amount of staff time was expended in 2005-06 to develop Manitoba's General Status ranks and participate in national roll-ups for groups such as crayfish, mussels and vascular plants. The results will help set conservation priorities for many species at risk and biodiversity programs and future assessments for listing under ***The Endangered Species Act*** **(Manitoba)**. It is appropriate to acknowledge the myriad of amateur naturalists and professional biologists in Manitoba who donated their time and expertise to help with this and other provincial conservation status assessments. Over the years, hundreds of Manitoba citizens have been studying, collecting and identifying species that contribute to this process.

- Biodiversity Convention Office: Manitoba participates on a Federal-Provincial-Territorial Biodiversity Working Group that is implementing programs such as bio-infomatics, reporting on status and trends in biodiversity, monitoring alien invasive species, and eco-citizenship, including stewardship.

Recovery and Management Program

Recovery efforts were implemented for 26 species at risk in Manitoba involving 4.83 staff years and an investment of over $90,000. Species included Woodland Caribou (Boreal population), Piping Plover, Wood Bison, Dakota Skipper, Least Bittern, Prairie Skink, Peregrine Falcon, Ferruginous Hawk, Yellow Rail, Burrowing Owl, Sprague's Pipit, Small White Lady's-slipper, Hairy Prairie-clover, Buffalograss, Red-headed Woodpecker, Ross's Gull, Western Spiderwort, Smooth Goosefoot, Western Silvery Aster, Riddell's Goldenrod, Whooping Crane, Ivory Gull, Long-billed Curlew, Short-eared Owl, Wolverine, and Western Prairie Fringed-orchid.

Highlights of some of these efforts are presented below:

- Two new **Species At Risk Fact Sheets** were produced for Culver's Root and Riddell's Goldenrod. The distribution of these and other fact sheets on Manitoba's Species at Risk continued, often in conjunction with presentations to various schools and organizations. Plans are under way to expand the fact sheet series in the coming year.

- **The National Recovery Working Group:** Manitoba is co-chairing this national working group that facilitates the recovery of nationally endangered wildlife in Canada. In 2005/06, Manitoba reported on its recovery efforts (funds and staff years) using the Recovery Information Management System (RIMS) database. This information will be incorporated into the National report to better reflect Manitoba's commitment to recovery efforts.

Western Prairie Fringed orchid and Small White Lady's Slipper Recovery

- Manitoba Conservation led the development of a draft National Recovery Strategy for the Endangered western prairie fringed orchid, and participated in the completion of a draft National Recovery Strategy for the endangered small white lady's-slipper. Both strategies are due for posting on the SARA registry (www.sararegistry.gc.ca) in June 2006.

Plant Species At Risk Recovery

- Collaboration with the National Recovery Team for Plant Species at Risk in Prairie Canada continued. Representatives from provincial and federal agencies in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta have agreed to work co-operatively to meet national recovery requirements for SARA-listed plant species found in two or more Prairie Provinces, including western spiderwort, hairy prairie clover, buffalo grass and smooth goosefoot.

Dakota Skipper Recovery

- The Dakota Skipper is a butterfly listed as Threatened in Manitoba. It depends on native tall grass prairie and persists only in a few isolated populations in southern Manitoba. Although formerly found in the Tall Grass Prairie Preserve (TGPP) near Tolstoi, only one skipper has been found in the preserve since 1994.

- A long-term project was initiated in co-operation with researchers from the University of Winnipeg to examine the potential for re-establishing a healthy population of skippers at the TGPP. A detailed analysis of the vegetation composition of habitats used by Dakota Skipper was undertaken at three sites in the Interlake where populations still exist. A similar analysis of vegetation was performed for sites in the north block of the TGPP to determine if suitable habitat still exists to sustain a population of skippers.

- The project will continue next year with an evaluation of vegetation in the south block of the preserve and an examination of the burn history of the site. Re-establishing a population of Dakota Skipper in protected prairie habitat is an important component of recovery for this species.

Prairie Skink Recovery

- The Manitoba Prairie Skink Recovery Team was formed and work began on a draft Recovery Strategy, Action Plan, Citizen-based Monitoring Guidelines, Fact Sheet, and Habitat Stewardship Guidelines. The team also identified research priorities and outreach opportunities for 2006/07. Field inventories and monitoring were limited this year, with plans to expand in 2006/07.

Peregrine Falcon Recovery

- 2005 marked the 25th anniversary of the Peregrine Falcon Recovery efforts in Manitoba. During this time, over 170 young peregrines have been released (by a process known as "hacking") from locations in Winnipeg, Brandon, Portage la Prairie and Gimli. Others have been raised by free-nesting pairs in downtown Winnipeg or Brandon. Active Peregrine Falcon nests were located in downtown Winnipeg and in Brandon during 2005. The Radisson Hotel site in downtown Winnipeg has been occupied during most years since 1989, during which time over 40 chicks have been raised. These chicks (and their offspring) have gone on to raise young of their own in cities across the Canadian Prairies, as well as in the northern United States.

- The current resident male on the Radisson Hotel was a 1996 wild-hatched male from the Radisson who has held the territory since 2000. His mate was a two-year-old female that was hatched in 2002 from a nest in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Three of four eggs from the downtown Winnipeg nest in 2005 hatched in mid-June and the chicks (2 males and 1 female) were subsequently banded by volunteers with the Peregrine Falcon Recovery Committee.

- In Brandon, two pairs of Peregrines were on territory in 2005 – one at the McKenzie Seeds Building, the second two kilometres north on a water-tower at the Brandon Mental Health Centre. The Mental Health Centre site was occupied by Peregrines for the third year in succession. Although this site was defended by the pair, no nesting was known to have occurred. The McKenzie Seeds Building has been occupied during most years since 1993.

- In 2005, a female that had been hatched in 2003 on the Community First Bank in Fargo, North Dakota, was paired with a 1995 wild-hatch male from the McKenzie Seeds Building that had held this territory in 2002 but was not positively identified on-site in 2003. During 2005, 4 eggs were laid and four young (3 males and 1 female) were banded and eventually fledged.

- Parkland Mews, in partnership with Manitoba Conservation, captive bred four young falcons, two of which were released into the wild. The captive breeding facility for this endangered raptor will help ensure continued success with recovery efforts for this Endangered Manitoba species and is a key part of Manitoba's recovery plan for this species.

Piping Plover Recovery

- The Manitoba Piping Plover Recovery Action Group, with funding from the Manitoba Special Conservation Fund, Manitoba Hydro and the federal Habitat Stewardship Fund, co-ordinated extended surveys, monitoring and stewardship initiatives in 2005.

- Stewardship initiatives included efforts to locate, monitor and protect all active nests on traditional nesting beaches. Monitoring efforts included regular surveys at 29 traditional nesting sites, extended surveys in remote areas in and around Lake Winnipeg and Lake Manitoba to locate and assess potential nesting beaches in non-traditional nesting sites, and a provincial breeding census of traditional nesting areas by numerous volunteers in early June that served as a "dry run" for the 2006 International Breeding Census.

- High water levels and flooding in 2005 caused inundation or erosion of much of the sandy beach habitat normally used by nesting Piping Plovers. Only 13 of 29 traditional sites and a handful of sites checked during the extended surveys were deemed to have serious potential as plover habitat in 2005.

- Although a total of 22 adult Piping Plovers were observed, many consisted of migratory or non-nesting individuals. Only six nesting pairs were verified, including four pairs at Grand Beach on Lake Winnipeg, one at Gull Bay on Lake Winnipeg, and one at Stoney Beach on Lake Manitoba. Including two re-nesting attempts, a total of seven nests were located; all but one of these were at Grand Beach Provincial Park. Of the seven nests, one was flooded and four were predated prior to hatching. Nesting success during 2005 was among the lowest on record, and only four chicks fledged.

- Stewardship and recovery activities undertaken in 2005 included protective fencing and signage installed at all major nesting sites to reduce the chances of nests being disturbed by humans or ATV's. Exclosure cages were also installed on all monitored nests to protect them from predators, and a Piping Plover Guardian Program was set up at Grand Beach to protect nests and increase public awareness and participation at this key nesting site. Most sites where adult plovers were observed were checked a minimum of once a week.

- At sites, such as Grand Beach, that could not be completely fenced off or access restricted to the entire potential nesting area, temporary fencing was used to protect specific territorial areas where pairs were observed in breeding behaviour or where scrapes were found. More permanent fencing was then placed around nests and nest exclosures installed to protect against avian predation once the nest scrape was located. Signs were placed on fencing structures and near traditional nesting areas to warn and educate beach users.

Eastern Loggerhead Shrike Recovery

- Stewardship and monitoring initiatives for the endangered eastern (migrans) subspecies of the loggerhead shrike in southeast Manitoba during 2005 were co-ordinated by the Eastern Manitoba Recovery Action Group (EMRAG). This group includes representatives from Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Cattle Producers Association, Manitoba Hydro, Ducks Unlimited, the Portage Natural History Group, and other local interest groups and individuals. Funding for 2005 included the provincial Sustainable Development Innovations Fund, the federal Habitat Stewardship Fund, Manitoba Conservation and Manitoba Hydro. Stewardship activities included public awareness and support for landowners that wish to preserve habitat for this endangered species.

- To facilitate awareness within the school division, a Grade 5 class at the West St. Paul School partnered with the recovery project in 2005. The class studied aspects of species at risk ecology, assisted in shrike surveys, planted shrike habitat within their school yard, and spent a day in the field observing nesting shrikes.

- Monitoring of nesting populations during 2005 revealed a total of 13 birds (five nesting pairs and three unmated shrikes) – down from 16 shrikes and eight pairs in 2004. Shrike reports were also solicited by articles in newspapers and on the radio, notices to birdwatchers and naturalists, and an educational display at Oak Hammock Marsh. One pair failed when the female was killed along a nearby road prior to egg-laying. The other four pairs nested successfully, producing a total of 26 eggs, at least 20 hatchlings, and a total of 19 fledged young. All except one of these 19 young were banded prior to fledging. At least 10 adult shrikes that were observed in the study area were found to be previously banded. These included six that had been banded as nesting adults from 2001 to 2004, and four that were banded as nestlings from 2002 to 2004. Two of the adults were unbanded; efforts to band these during 2005 failed.

- Three pairs were found on suburban properties in the RM of West St Paul on the northern outskirts of Winnipeg, and two pairs returned to 2004 nest sites on the western outskirts of Winnipeg – one at the John Blumberg golf course and another at Optimist Park.

Grassland Birds at Risk Recovery

- Wildlife native to the prairies has suffered greater losses since settlement than wildlife from any other habitat. Manitoba's Threatened Grassland Birds Program oversees monitoring and management of grassland species at risk, especially threatened grassland birds in southern Manitoba. Target species include those designated as threatened or endangered under The Endangered Species Act, including the burrowing owl, ferruginous hawk, loggerhead shrike, Sprague's pipit and Baird's sparrow.

- Despite intensive management and re-introductions of burrowing owls in Manitoba since the mid-1980s, nesting populations have plummeted here as they have throughout the Canadian prairies. Several reliable burrowing owl reports were received in the spring and early summer of 2005, but none stayed around long enough to be verified. Later in the summer a family group was reported but again they had departed before the report was received. Increased numbers of reports, however, lend hope that there are still a few widely scattered pairs of burrowing owls nesting in the province.

- Nesting ferruginous hawks returned to Manitoba in 1984, after an absence of nearly 60 years. Population increases during the 1980s can be credited to more widespread protection, enhanced public attitudes towards hawks and raptors in general, and the provision of secure nesting platforms. By 1990, the nesting population had increased to 56 pairs. During the 1990s, reduced productivity due to a widespread population crash in its primary prey, the Richardson's ground squirrel (or prairie gopher), resulted in nesting numbers dropping to 36 pairs by 2002. But, ground squirrel numbers are rebounding slightly in the southwest, resulting in enhanced ferruginous hawk nesting success.

- During 2005, numbers of nesting ferruginous hawk pairs declined by two pairs; a total of 42 pairs nested in southern Manitoba. Nest success was also rather low with only 57 per cent of the nests successfully raising young; a total of 58 young were produced. As in other recent years, more than three-quarters of the nesting pairs during 2005 used artificial nest platforms. The platforms, which are actually wire nesting baskets filled with sticks, look identical to natural nests. But they have been more successful because they are placed in sturdier trees, are near extensive hunting pastures, and are situated as far as possible from potential disturbance.

- Nesting populations of the threatened western loggerhead shrike in southern Manitoba declined by 35 per cent from 72 to 47 nesting pairs in 2005. Numbers have dropped markedly since 1993 (when a high of 327 pairs were recorded). Reduced nesting success (due to increased predation) and lowered productivity during wet, cool weather are believed to have contributed to recent declines. Although weather was not a major factor in 2005, monitored nests had high levels of predation on eggs and young. A total of 56 young western loggerhead shrikes were banded in

Manitoba during 2005. Return rates on young and adult shrikes that have been banded since 1987 has revealed unusually low return rates of both. This suggests that higher mortality on the nesting grounds, as well as on migration and in wintering areas, may also be contributing to ongoing declines.

Woodland Caribou Recovery and Management

- The Department completed and distributed *Manitoba's Conservation and Recovery Strategy for Boreal Woodland Caribou* in 2005/06.

Chitek Lake Wood Bison Recovery and Management

- A population survey was completed in the Chitek Lake area in February, 2006. A total of 168 bison were counted giving a population estimate of just over 200 animals. The herd has grown steadily since 21 bison were introduced in two groups in 1991 and 1996, although there has been some mortality from predation and starvation during hard winters.

- Chitek Lake is located within the traditional use area of Skownan First Nation and Manitoba Conservation is working co-operatively with the First Nation to develop a Chitek Lake Wood Bison Management Plan. The committee meets three to five times per year to work on the plan and to discuss management issues as they arise.

Species At Risk Policy and Procedures

- Development of a Manitoba Species at Risk Policy and Procedures was initiated this year to provide government-wide direction and define the roles and responsibilities that will ensure the survival of species at risk and their habitat in Manitoba.

Education, Research And Outreach

Dragonfly Education and Outreach

- Manitoba Conservation partnered with NatureNorth to initiate the development of a curriculum- and web-based education multimedia resource for Manitoba schools on the biology of dragonflies.

Red-sided Garter Snake Education and Outreach

- The hibernacula at Narcisse remain popular with Manitobans and non-residents who visit each spring to watch the snakes emerge. The abundance of snakes in the Interlake also continues to attract scientists from several major universities in the United States to study the ecology, physiology and reproductive biology of the species.

- The Narcisse WMA interpretive program, in co-operation with the Manitoba/Quebec Exchange Program, provided a placement for a university student from Quebec to offer tours of the snake hibernacula in French. This was the third year of involvement with the program.

Eastern Screech Owl Research

- Manitoba Conservation continued to support research on the eastern screech owl by a Master's graduate student with the Faculty of Environment at the University of Manitoba. This research project is assessing the population density and habitat preferences of the species in Winnipeg and surrounding areas. The habits of the eastern screech owl are poorly understood in Manitoba, and monitoring this environmental "barometer" in urban areas provides information on how cities can be sustainable habitats for wildlife.

Manitoba Heritage Day, Lady Gray'l, and the Lady Gray'l Fund

- Lady Gray'l, a Great Gray Owl, that together with retired provincial ecologist Dr. Robert W. Nero, served to educate thousands about conservation, was the centre of attention during Manitoba

Heritage Day in May 2005 which highlighted the Great Gray Owl, selected as Manitoba's official bird emblem in 1987. Sadly, Lady Gray'l died of natural causes on 13 October 2005, at 21½ years old. The Lady Gray'l Fund has been established under the auspices of the Winnipeg Foundation in her memory and to support research on conservation of owls and other Manitoba wildlife.

Polar Bear Education and Outreach

- Section staff participated for the second year in an educational program for high school students organized by Polar Bears International, a non-profit organization dedicated to conservation of polar bears through education. Eleven high school students from Canada, USA, Australia and Germany travelled to Winnipeg and Churchill to learn about polar bear biology and issues in polar bear management. The program also provided an opportunity for students to learn first hand about the impact of climate change on the arctic.

- One of the students who participated in this year's "camp" was the recipient of the department's Biodiversity Conservation Award at the Manitoba Schools Science Symposium. The award is presented to an exemplary individual project at the Intermediate Level in Animal Biology or Environmental Studies. Section staff judged projects and interviewed finalists to select the winner and runner-up.

Table WI.13

12.4(g)4 Biodiversity Conservation

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	317.9	5.00	312.8	5.1	
Other Expenditures	70.3		72.0	(1.7)	
Total 12.4(g) 4	**388.2**	**5.00**	**384.8**	**3.4**	

Canada-Manitoba Waterfowl Damage Prevention Agreement

Ideal fall harvest conditions in Agro-Manitoba aided farmers' ability to complete the cereal harvest before the arrival of large numbers of waterfowl in early September. These conditions resulted in below-average waterfowl crop damage across Manitoba. Field delivery of the Waterfowl Crop Damage Prevention Program cost $330,300 of which Canada contributed $151,000.

The program operated two feeding stations and eight Crown land lure crops in damage-prone areas. The program provides farmers with cracker shells, lends scarecrows and propane scare cannons to protect crops. A total of 23 scare-cannon depots were set up to provide farmers ready access to equipment.

The program operated under a second one-year Canada-Manitoba Waterfowl Damage Prevention Agreement. This Agreement extends the previous agreement and maintains Canada's participation in and cost-shared funding of the program until March 31, 2006. The Problem Wildlife Unit began negotiations with Environment Canada in March 2005 to develop a long-term, four-year agreement that would see the program extended through March 2009.

Table WI.14

12.4(g)5 Canada-Manitoba Waterfowl Damage Prevention Agreement

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Other Expenditures	330.3		350.4	(20.1)	
Total 12.4(g)5	**330.3**		**350.4**	**(20.1)**	

Special Conservation and Endangered Species Fund

The Fund promotes principles of sustainable development through grants to non-profit community based organizations to undertake projects that will enhance the natural resources of the province. The Fund encourages organizations to develop local projects that foster better understanding of natural resource issues and the environment. Funding is granted according to dollars in the Fund and the number of proponents.

Table SC.1

12.4(h) Special Conservation and Endangered Species Fund

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Grant Assistance	93.2		250.0	(156.8)	1.
Total 12.4(h)	**93.2**		**250.0**	**(156.8)**	

1. Under expenditure in Grant Assistance is due to few projects submitted and fewer meeting the Special Conservation and Endangered Species Fund critieria.

Pollution Prevention

Working co-operatively with local governments, non-government organizations, business and industry associations and other agencies, the Branch promotes initiatives to prevent pollution and conserve resources, and supports these and other provincial initiatives through the management and administration of grant funding programs. The Branch plans and develops programs, policy, strategies, and regulations that will protect the environment and develops and distributes educational and informational materials to client groups.

The Waste Reduction and Prevention (WRAP) Act and ***The Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) Act*** are administered by the Branch. The Branch manages the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund (SDIF) established under Part 7 of ***The Sustainable Development Act*** and three of its broad allocation funding initiatives, including the SDIF Open Category, Waste Reduction and Pollution Prevention (WRAPP) Fund and the Environmental Youth Corps (EYC).

The branch supports and participates in various departmental initiatives, including providing a staff member to serve as the campaign manager for the departmental All Charities Campaign and coordinating the department's efforts in the Commuter Challenge. Staff also participate on review committees for other departmental, provincial and federal grant funding programs.

To enhance skills, ensure effective and efficient program delivery, and ensure the Branch is using current knowledge and research in its work, staff participated in various seminars and training sessions.

In September 2005, four staff were transferred to Green Manitoba, a new provincial agency under the Department of Energy, Science and Technology. Green Manitoba has been mandated to lead and coordinate an enhanced and expanded system for product stewardship, energy and water conservation, demand-side management and sustainable transportation.

Branch activities are divided into four program areas:

1. Waste Reduction and Prevention,
2. Pollution Prevention,
3. Environmentally Sustainable Practices, and
4. Funding Programs

The following key activities were carried out in 2005/06.

Waste Reduction and Prevention

The Branch develops policy and implements strategies and programming to reduce solid waste going to waste disposal grounds. Significant progress was made in developing and promoting sustainable alternatives to waste disposal.

Recycling levels continue to increase in Manitoba with over 69% of available residential recyclables now being recovered. Manitobans are recycling over 64,612 Tonnes of packaging and paper. Recycling levels increased 10% over the previous year.

- Manitoba's waste diversion performance continues to improve as a result of its product stewardship initiatives, improved waste disposal system operation, increased organic waste composting and new waste reduction activities implemented by local government and the Institutional, Commercial and Industrial (ICI) sectors. Manitoba's waste reduction goal remains at 500 kgs per person of solid waste disposed at landfills, a 50% reduction over 1989 levels.

- The Branch continued to focus on programs that aim to:
  - promote producer responsibility for post-consumer product management
  - encourage strategic public private sector partnerships to address environmental issues
  - reduce volume of waste generated and disposed; and
  - improve waste management facility operations and planning.

- The Branch continued to support the development of regional recycling networks throughout the province, and support and promote partnerships with non-government organizations to provide public information on waste reduction, composting, pollution prevention, green commuting and climate change.

- The Branch emphasized the development of composting facilities by municipalities, on farm manure management and supported the promotion of backyard composting. Support for public environmental information services, alternative leachate management systems and waste transfer station developments were priority initiatives of the Branch.

- Reducing Waste and Preventing Pollution has been identified as a major priority under the province's Green and Growing Strategy, released in January 2006. In cooperation with Green Manitoba, staff continued to work to shift Manitoba's product stewardship approach to a regulated steward responsibility model. The immediate focus is on four waste minimization priorities: tires, blue box materials, household hazardous waste, and waste from electronic products (e-waste). The regulatory basis of this model is the Used Oil, Oil Filters and Containers Stewardship Regulation under *The WRAP Act*.

- In addition to these waste minimization priorities, surplus and obsolete ozone depleting substances has also been targeted for extended producer responsibilities to ensure for the proper management, collection and disposal of this waste material.

- In October 2005, following an industry forum hosted by Green Manitoba, working groups for each of the four priority areas were established. Regulations for each of the four priority areas were drafted. A new Tire Stewardship Regulation was released for public comment in March 2006.

Multi-Material Recycling

- At the time of reporting, figures for 2005/06 were not yet available. In 2004/05, recycling levels neared 70%. As a result, the Manitoba Product Stewardship Corporation (MPSC), established as a statutory corporation in 1995 under the Multi-Material Stewardship (Interim Measures) Regulation, faced increased financial pressures to support municipal recycling systems.

- In 2004/05, the MPSC paid out nearly $7.75 million in Municipal Recycling Support Payments to recycling program operators and more than $600,000 to school programs. Municipal recycling programs continue to recover more resources annually. Manitoba's recycling system recovered over 64,612 metric tonnes of an estimated 92,921 metric tonnes (69%) of eligible material. On average, Manitobans recycled 50 kgs/person from their homes in 2004/05, an increase of more than 10% over the previous year.

- The Branch participated in the MPSC's regional recycling meetings. A representative of the Pollution Prevention Branch has been a member of the MPSC Board of Directors since March 2004. Further information on the MPSC is available at: www.mpsc.com

- Following the approval in November 2004 of MPSC's 2004/07 business plan, several major changes were implemented. Payments to municipal programs were adjusted and to ensure the continued delivery of the established school and youth programming, the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund awarded over $575,000 for the continuation of the STAR, STAR Plus, Environmental Speakers Bureau and other related youth programming activities during

2005/06. The school programming will be moved to Green Manitoba and to Manitoba Education, Youth and Citizenship during FY 2006/07.

Table P2.1
Material Recovery Rates 2004/05

Eligible Material	Total Tonnes Recovered	Measured Generation (Tonnes)	Recovery Rate
Newspapers, magazines, flyers, telephone directories	33,979	37,450	91%
Glass containers	5,138	14,510	35%
Boxboard	5,220	10,181	51%
Corrugated Cardboard	10,932	11,235	97%
Steel Cans	2,530	6,553	39%
PET #1 plastic containers	2,011	2,926	68%
HDPE #2 plastic containers	2,075	4,096	50%
Aluminum cans	855	1,989	43%
Polycoat and Aseptic containers	993	2,223	44%
#4, 5 & 7 Plastics	878	1,755	50%
Total	**64,612**	**92,921**	**69%**

Tire Recycling

- The Tire Stewardship Board's (TSB) Scrap Tire Recycling Program (established 1995) is funded by a $2.80 levy on new tires sold for licensed vehicles. The funds are used to support the collection, processing and recycling of scrap tires. Five processors recycled 1,279,797 PTEs (Passenger Tire Equivalents). A total of 831,731 car, light truck and medium truck tires were sold, with $2,331,073 in levies collected and recyclers paid $2,364.669 in credit incentives. An additional $23,989 was paid to municipalities as an incentive to store tires appropriately for pickup.

- In June 2005, the Tire Stewardship Regulation was amended and the Minister of Conservation appointed a new interim Board. The Interim Board was directed to undertake a comprehensive review of the program and its operations to ensure the sustainability of the program for the short-term and the long-term.

- A total of $800,000 was awarded during 2005/06 to ensure continued sustainability of program delivery which included support payments to tire recyclers and providing for a limited off-the-road (OTR) tire recycling program.

- To ensure the long-term sustainability of the program, efforts were initiated to shift regulatory requirements toward an extended producer responsibility model for the management of scrap tires. Consultations were initiated with the tire industry, which, under the new model, will take greater responsibility for reducing the environmental impacts of tires and funding their stewardship responsibilities.

- Further information on the TSB is available at: www.skyweb.ca/~mbtirebd/web.htm

Table P2.2
Products from Manitoba Scrap Tires in 2005/06

Product	PTEs	Percent of Total
Shred	589,572	46%
Moulded Products	287,645	22%
Tire-Derived Fuel	250,895	20%
Blasting Mats	92,471	7%
Truck sidewalls	52,404	4%
Crumb rubber	4,603	1%
Cut Products	2,307	1%
TOTAL PTEs Recycled	**1,279,797**	

Used Oil Recycling

- The *Used Oil, Oil Filters and Containers Stewardship Regulation* prohibits sale of lubricating oil products unless the vendor is registered and belongs to the stewardship program operated by Manitoba Association for Resource Recovery Corporation (MARRC). MARRC has 143 members, and as part of their membership agreement, vendors must pay Environmental Handling Charges based on product sales. In total, 53 Eco-Centres have been established in partnership with municipal governments and there are 18 privately operated depots.

- Purchases of lubricating products increased by six percent from last year. Oil recovery grew 8% to 13.5 million litres of used oil out of 16.5 million litres available. Filter recovery grew to 1,720,000 filters of 1.98 million available. Container recovery increased slightly to 194,000 kg while 884,000 kgs are available. Further information on MARRC is available at: www.usedoilrecycling.com

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)

- The Branch continued to manage the contract with Miller Environmental, valued at $751,400 to support household hazardous waste management. The responsibility for this program will be transferred to Green Manitoba in 2006/07.

- The HHW collection program sponsored 12 rural and 20 Winnipeg events and collected 559 tonnes of household hazardous wastes. This total was 12% more than the amount collected in 2004/05. A total of 7,268 vehicles were serviced at HHW collection depots, a jump of 16% from the previous year.

- The branch continued to work towards improved management of electronic wastes. Branch staff participated on several national/western committees looking at harmonizing approaches to the management of e-waste in Canada.

Table P2.3

Manitoba's Household Hazardous Waste Program									
Material Collected April 2005 to March 2006 (Litres)									
	Wpg 05	*Wpg 06*	*Change*	*Rural 05*	*Rural 06*	*Change*	*2005*	*2006*	*Change*
Acid solutions	2,629	3,815	*45%*	908	611.25	*-33%*	3,537	4,426	*25%*
Alkaline solutions	10,273	12,884	*25%*	3,837	3,965	*3%*	14,110	16,848	*19%*
Aqueous salts	0	0	*0%*	0	0	*0%*	0	0	*0%*
Miscellaneous - Inorganic	126,327	147,409	*17%*	74,397	63,803	*-14%*	200,723	211,211	*5%*
Non halogenated solvents	51,377	54,191	*5%*	15,708	16,907	*8%*	67,084	71,098	*6%*
Fuels	768	201.25	*-74%*	780	-	*100%*	1,548	201	*-87%*
Resins and plastics	143,254	156,029	*9%*	31,415	46,193	*47%*	174,669	202,222	*16%*
Halogenated organic waste	8,141	11,606	*43%*	5,170	-3,637	*-170%*	13,311	7,970	*-40%*
Oily wastes	2,556	546	*-79%*	0	406.50	*n/r*	2,556	952	*-63%*
Miscellaneous - Organic	2,248	2,812	*25%*	188	780.50	*315%*	2,436	3,592	*47%*
Aerosols/compressed gases	6,045	8,811	*46%*	2,396	3,840	*60%*	8,441	12,651	*50%*
PCB ballasts	313	128.00	*-59%*	91	292.00	*221%*	404	420	*4%*
Subtotal	353,931	398,430	*13%*	134,890	146,605	*9%*	488,819	545,036	*12%*
Batteries, Acid filled	12,192	12,065	*-1%*	6,909	5,424	*-21%*	19,101	17,489	*-8%*
Propane Bottles	3,316	2,509	*-24%*	775	748.00	*-3%*	4,091	3,257	*-20%*
Total quantity	**369,439**	**413,004**	*12%*	**142,574**	**146,605**	*3%*	**512,011**	559,609	*9%*
Total Number of Vehicles	*4,259*	*5,107*	*20%*	*2,009*	*2,165*	*8%*	*6,268*	7,272	*16%*

Pollution Prevention

Pollution prevention is defined as the use of processes, practices, materials, products, substances or energy that avoids or minimizes the creation of pollutants and waste, and reduces the overall risk to the environment and human health.

- The Branch continued to work with, and provide information to a variety of government, academic, industry, and consumer organizations. The branch distributed technical and public education materials in support of branch and departmental program areas and promoted awareness of environmental issues at various workshops and tradeshows.

- The Manitoba Environmental Industries Association (MEIA) continued to be a key partner for the Branch, which provided grant funding to the organization for various initiatives and participated in workshops and activities.

- Branch staff represented Manitoba on the Canadian Council Ministers of the Environment (CCME) Pollution Prevention Network and participated on the review panel for the Pollution Prevention Awards and Recognition Program. The CCME awards program recognizes companies and organizations showing leadership in pollution prevention. Each year, award winners from small, medium and large businesses, organizations, developers of pollution prevention innovations, and organizations using greenhouse gas reduction initiatives are selected. Twenty-three detailed submissions were reviewed and evaluated.

- Two Manitoba companies were among the seven winners and four honourable mentions, which received their awards at a gala ceremony at the annual Canadian Pollution Prevention Round Table in Victoria, British Columbia in June 2005.

- Winnipeg's New Flyer Industries won the Large Business Award for its initiative to minimize environmental impacts from and reduce worker exposures to Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs). The company identified activities that involved using high VOC content products, such as flooring installation and surface coating operations and achieved a 70.29% VOC reduction through product substitution and solvent recovery.

- The Louisiana Pacific Oriented Strandboard Plant in Swan River received an honourable mention in the medium business category for its new dryer energy system, which reduced air emissions, improved raw material usage efficiency, and reduced net annual costs.

- Additional details about the Pollution Prevention Awards is available at: www.ccme.ca/initiatives/pollution.html

Ozone Depleting Substances

- A branch representative continued to participate on the Federal-Provincial Working Group (FPWG) on Ozone Depleting Substances and Halocarbon Alternatives and met to consult on provincial and federal harmonization approaches for implementation of the National *Action Plan (NAP) for the Environmental Control of Ozone Depleting Substances and Their Halocarbon Alternatives*. The FPWG is responsible for developing Canada's National Action Plan (NAP) which outlines how ODS will be controlled, reduced and eliminated in Canada. The NAP was created to meet national and international commitments under the Montreal Protocol. The 2001 NAP approved by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) calls for the implementation new measures to eliminate the release of ODS and alternatives into the environment.

- Sectoral consultations were undertaken with Manitoba industry stakeholders and broad public consultations were held in June 2005 on proposed amendments to the *Ozone Depleting Substances Regulation*, M.R. 103/94. A Manitoba ODS Management Program website was developed and information was made available on-line for the consultation process. Regulatory amendments were passed in December 2005, under Amending Regulation 178/05. New permitting requirements, phase-out schedules for industry sectors and increased technician certification fees, were established and to reflect the inclusion of new control measures for ODS replacement products the name of the regulation was changed to the *Ozone Depleting Substances and Other Halocarbon Regulation*.

- To ensure ODS and replacement products are safely collected and properly disposed in Manitoba, a new regulatory provision for sellers to take-back ODS was established. Staff continued to work with FPWG and a national voluntary industry stewardship organization, Refrigerant Management Canada (RMC) regarding the need for a comprehensive harmonized approach for a halocarbon stewardship program for the proper management, collection and disposal of obsolete and surplus ODS. RMC has accepted and processed 808,897 kgs of high and low pressure refrigerants and 712,313 kgs of refrigerant waste has been destroyed.

- Staff worked in partnership with the Manitoba Ozone Protection Industry Association (MOPIA) on the implementation of new regulatory requirements to encourage the orderly transition from CFCs and Halons to alternative substances and technologies and to assure the safe disposal of surplus stocks. A series of industry information sessions on new regulatory requirements were held throughout Manitoba.

- Staff continued to work in partnership with the Manitoba Ozone Protection Industry Association (MOPIA) to analyze current practices and options to enhance recovery of ozone depleting substances from white goods in Manitoba for disposal.

- The Branch reviewed and administered the Annual Appointment Agreement between Manitoba Conservation and the Manitoba Ozone Protection Industry Association (MOPIA). The appointment allows MOPIA to undertake certain administrative tasks under the Regulation and continue its role as a service provider in issuing permits and collecting fees. In total, 4,994 trained service technician certificates and 354 secondary distributor permits were issued and four certification training sessions were held.

Environmentally Sustainable Practices

The Branch promotes adoption of environmentally-sustainable practices and pursues co-operative approaches and partnerships with stakeholder organizations.

Water Efficiency

- The Pollution Prevention Branch continues to partner with the Association of Manitoba Municipalities (AMM) and other provincial and federal government departments and agencies to enable municipalities to use water and energy more efficiently. The SDIF and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) have each committed up to $160,000 to undertake up to 16 municipal building utility audits. Technical expertise and assistance in project management was provided.

- Branch personnel continued to assist Manitoba Hydro to integrate water efficiency measures into their PowerSmart programs.

- The Branch also continued to provide technical water efficiency advice to Federal Parks employees, and reviewed proposals for a "Federal House in Order Project" (FHIO) at Lower Fort Garry. To assist federal entities in achieving emission reductions, the FHIO initiative provides federal department's access to supporting programs in the areas of buildings, vehicle fleets, outside emissions, such as employee commuting and business travel, and energy efficient procurement. The project at Lower Fort Garry is an initiative by Parks Canada to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions related to their facility, reduce energy and water use, and educate the public about the alternatives implemented.

- As a result of staff transfers in September 2005, Green Manitoba has assumed responsibility for water efficiency initiatives.

Funding Programs

The Branch manages and administers funding programs that support innovative solutions to environmental issues including the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund (SDIF) and its targeted allocations, including: SDIF Open Category, Waste Reduction and Pollution Prevention (WRAPP) Fund and Environmental Youth Corps (EYC).

Details on approved projects funded through the SDIF are provided in a separate *Annual Report* on the Fund, tabled in the Legislature.

Table PP.4
12.4(i) Pollution Prevention

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	565.2	9.00	574.0	(8.8)	
Other Expenditures	853.6		778.7	74.9	1.
Total 12.4(i)	**1,418.8**	**9.00**	**1,352.7**	**66.1**	

1. Increase in Other Expenditures is due to two additional depot days in order to address the high demand for proper management of household hazardous waste.

Lands

The Branch is responsible for the management and control of provincial Crown lands that that are governed by ***The Crown Lands Act***. The branch also has responsibility for wild rice under ***The Wild Rice Act***.

Lands Branch works closely with Regional Operations and other Program branches of the department to review applications and other proposals or programs involving Crown land and wild rice. The reviews also involve other departments and agencies of the provincial, federal and municipal governments as well as First Nations and external organizations, depending on the type of application and location of the Crown land. The Branch administers the Grants in Lieu of taxes program for the department.
The objectives of the branch are:

- To incorporate the principles of sustainable development into its processes and activities.
- To develop policies and processes that are transparent to the public and provide fair and equal opportunities to all Manitobans in allocations of Crown land;
- To ensure the Province receives full value for the disposition of Crown land through sale or rental.
- To facilitate delivery of the Northern Flood Agreement, Treaty Land Entitlement, and other First Nations land settlements and programs.
- To maintain complete and accurate records of Crown land inventories, encumbrances and dispositions;
- To provide a high level of service to government and the public.

The following key activities were carried out in 2005/06.

Cottaging Initiative

- The Lands Branch, in conjunction with other areas in the department, has been an active participant in the delivery of the Cottaging Initiative which makes cottage lots available to Manitobans. Public draws were held in the spring and fall of 2005 bringing the total Public Draws under this initiative to four. The program has been extremely well received and supported by municipalities and communities throughout the province.

- New development not only enhances the quality of life for Manitobans by providing opportunities to enjoy Manitoba's natural beauty and cottage life, but it also provides considerable economic benefits to communities and municipalities. Benefits are derived from the initial construction of the infrastructure, as well as from cottage construction and ongoing local spending and tax contributions.

- Subdivision proposals go through extensive planning, review and approval processes to determine suitability of the sites before development actually begins. These processes ensure high standards are followed with respect to environmental, natural resource, sewage and waste disposal, servicing and other interests.

- There has been excellent response to the lot offerings with the number of applications exceeding the availability in all draws.

- Lot selection meetings are held at multiple locations as a means of making the process more customer-friendly. The various locations are linked through teleconferencing, providing the public with convenient location choices in order to attend.

- The Cottage Draw Information Package information is available on the Conservation web site at www.gov.mb.ca/conservation/cottaging.

Crown Lands Operations

The section is responsible for ensuring due diligence is carried out in reviews and recommendations relative to applications for the use or occupation of Crown land.

Applications are received for a broad range of private, public and commercial uses. Each application must be assessed with respect to appropriate type of tenure for the proposed use or occupation and compliance with sustainable development principles, policies and legislation.

Types of tenure include permits, leases, licences of occupation, easements and fee simple title (sales). The review and approval process, terms and conditions, and time frames are different for each type of tenure. For example, a sale application usually requires a much more comprehensive process which is significantly lengthier than that required for a permit application.

The review process for all applications includes circulation of the application throughout government as well as to municipal authorities, planning districts, conservation districts and First Nations. The recipients of the circulation are determined based on the type of application, proposed land use and location of the Crown land.

The section is responsible for the preparation of various legal documents related to an approved disposition. These include Sale, Lease, Licence of Occupation and easement agreements, Land Grants, Land Transfers, Real Property Applications, Caveats, Assignments, Collateral Assignments. Accuracy is essential due to the high consequence of error.

The section currently administers 2,863 permits and 521 leases, 346 Licences of Occupation and 1,153 easements.

Operations section is also responsible for administration of wild rice licences and permits on Crown land under ***The Wild Rice Act***. A Development Licence may be issued for a three-year period for test seeding and development prior to converting to a Production Licence.

The section currently administers 255 Wild Rice Licences.

Aboriginal Land Programs

The unit is responsible for administration of Crown land programs and settlement agreements involving First Nations and aboriginal communities and plays a key role in the negotiation and implementation of various agreements and programs involving Crown land. The section enjoys close and co-operative working relationships with First Nations and provides information, explanations and assistance to facilitate selections of Crown land and resolution of issues associated with selections. The section represents the Branch in the consultation process with First Nations and Aboriginal communities for Crown land proposals.

Crown land related technical support and advisory services are provided to other branches and departments that are responsible for negotiation and delivery of agreements, claims and programs involving First Nations. Services include research, mapping, record keeping, technical advice and services related to the agreements and any interests, encumbrances or legislative limitations that may affect availability of selected Crown lands.

The primary responsibility of the section is the clearance and transfer of Crown land to Canada for entitlement First Nations under the *Treaty Land Entitlement Framework Agreement*. A custom-designed computer GIS system known as TRELES was developed to manage the program. The system tracks and maps selections and acreages, records circulation responses, tracks and reports on issues associated with selections and resolutions to the issues, and generates status reports on demand. The section

works closely with Aboriginal and Northern Affairs who has the lead responsibility in delivery of the program.

To date the Section has reviewed in excess of 1.5 million acres of Crown land selections. To ensure consistency with the various settlement agreements, provincial departments and agencies have reviewed the sites. The section has formulated a Provincial Position on each site and held discussions with Canada and the First Nations to resolve the conditions under which the lands would be available for transfer.

The Section participates in an all party committee to develop agreed forms for the transfer of lands between Canada and Manitoba and works with other branches and regions within the department to develop methods and procedures for the delivery of programs to ensure compliance with the terms of the Framework Agreement. It currently provides technical support to the Peguis First Nation Land Claim negotiations.

All Crown land Selections and Private land Acquisitions are cleared through the Section prior to submission for approval by the Department. In respect of Acquisition lands, the Crown must ensure any Residual Interests held under legislation or as part of the land such as mines and minerals are dealt with appropriately prior to transfer.

Other programs and agreements the section is involved in or responsible for includes; The Northern Flood Agreement, Grand Rapids Forebay Agreements, Community Association of South Indian Lake Land Transfer Agreement, land exchanges, and other land/flooding claims or treaty land entitlements. These agreements may include the transfer of land in fee simple to a corporation in addition to the transfer of land to Canada for Reserve purposes. The section currently administers 49 Exclusive Use Permits issued to TLE First Nations and 180 Land Use Permits issued to First Nations and Communities under their respective agreements.

Table LA.1
Treaty Land Entitlement Status

1997 TLE Framework Agreement First Nations	Crown Land Entitlement Acres	Crown Land Acres Selected by First Nations	Crown Land Available for Transfer Pending Completion of Survey by Canada	Survey Completed Land Transferred to Canada by Manitoba
Barren Lands	66,420	28,098		
Northlands	94,084	57,317		
Brokenhead	4,344	4,685		
Buffalo Point	3,432	2,647		2370
Fox Lake	26,391	100		
Gods Lake	42,600	41,225	3,055	12,527
Manto Sipi	8,725	9,963	4,283	
Mathias Colomb	217,364	199,635	85,369	
Marcel Colomb	17,007			
Nisichawayasihk	61,935	69,815	13,060	12,925
O-Pipon-Na-Piwin	17,500	35,127		
Norway House	104,784	107,253	21,203	24,716
Opaskwayak	47,658	49,980	1773	8,700
Bunibonibee	35,434	35,795	11,041	14,368
Rolling River	2,356	2,351		2,351
Sapotaweyak	108,134	113,706	94,512	4,566
Wuskwi Sipihk	44,168	45,304		23,469
Sayisi Dene	22,372			
Shamattawa	24,912	19,350		
War Lake	7,156	6,746		
York Factory	29,173	10,806		
TOTALS	985,949	839,903	234,296	105,992

1994 TLE Settlement Agreement First Nations	Crown Land Entitlement Acres	Crown Land Acres Selected	Crown Land Available for Transfer Pending Completion of Survey by Canada	Canada Survey Completed - Land Transferred to Canada
Garden Hill*	45,369.00	50,369		43,098
Red Sucker Lake	9,487.00	9,585		9,585
St. Theresa Point*	34,908.00	35,185		35,185
Wasagamack*	12,493.00	12,511		12,511
TOTAL	102,257.00	107,650		100,379

*Includes additional acres necessary to accommodate future public purpose requirement

2005/06 TLE Framework Agreement Activity

100,000 acres of selected Crown lands were approved by Manitoba for survey by Canada.

27,750 acres of selected Crown lands were transferred by Manitoba to Canada prior to transfer. (Completion of survey by Canada required.)

The Section is actively involved in Tri-Party meetings concerning 500,000 acres of Crown land selections that are not approved for survey with a goal to expedite the process.

Table LA.2
12.4(j)1 Crown Lands Operations

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	711.0	16.00	793.0	(82.0)	
Other Expenditures	1,644.3		1,632.4	11.9	
Total 12.4(j)1	**2,355.3**	**16.00**	**2,425.4**	**(70.1)**	

Crown Lands Registry

This section maintains secure and accurate records of current and historic dispositions of Crown land. Records of dispositions and all related documents are maintained in the computerized Crown Land Registry System. The Records Vault holds microfiche and paper files containing copies of agreements, documents, correspondence and other information related to each specific parcel of land.

The Registry is the authoritative source of original grants of land and mineral interests from the Crown. This includes dispositions made by the Dominion Government prior to the transfer of natural resources to the province in 1930.

The section provides a number of services to a wide range of government departments, the public and private agencies. These services include:

- Providing computerized queries, reports and historical searches of Crown land records.
- Providing information to the public and private sector regarding mines and minerals ownership.
- Administering the approval process for requests by municipalities for approval to sell government road allowances.
- Administering approval process for transfer of Mines and Minerals for subdivision purposes.
- Recording all transactions and maintaining records related to Crown land dispositions, reservations and Order in Council designations.
- Recording agricultural permits and leases, and quarry permits and leases on the Crown Land Registry System.
- Managing microfilming and archiving requirements for Crown land records.
- Recording reservations from disposition on Crown lands identified for purposes of fulfilling obligations under the Treaty Land Entitlement Agreement, Northern Flood Agreement, and other First Nations land claims.
- Providing online access to the Registry to other branches and departments of government.

Table LA.3
12.4(j)2 Crown Lands Registry

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	170.5	4.00	174.8	(4.3)	
Other Expenditures	120.6		116.6	4.0	
Total 12.4(j)2	**291.1**	**4.00**	**291.4**	**(0.3)**	

Remote Sensing

Topographic Mapping

- Topographic mapping in the Cross Lake area has been completed. Severance and Parcel Boundaries have been added where applicable. Final stage of producing 125 .pdf files and hard copy products at a scale of 1:4000 are in the works.
- Contours were produced for FMU's 4 and 7 from our 1:60,000 digital elevation models.
- The Provincial 1:20,000 base mapping project has been completed. Project includes approximately 208 topologically geospatially structured 1:50,000 data sets of southern Manitoba of which all are available on the Manitoba Land Initiative web site.
- Seamless datasets were created for all seven layers of topographic data within the1:20,000 provincial base mapping project.
- Work is continuing on the 1:50,000 agreement with NRCAN (Natural Resources Canada) for the updating and vectorizing of their 1:50,000 datasets from landsat 7 satellite imagery. A total of 10 sheets were completed in the fiscal.
- Forty-seven rural municipality boundaries were structured for topographic data.
- Negotiations are continuing between Manitoba and the Federal Government for updating the National Road Network (NRN). The NRN will be the base reference with the ultimate goal of producing a PRN (Provincial Road Network) complete with civic addressing and other attribute data needed by other departments.

Manitoba Geographical Names Program

- A local Island Lake resident completed his research on local names in the Island Lake area and published the location and origin data for educational and historical purposes. Research assistance was provided to this researcher and must now be followed up to confirm the accuracy of his research and prepare decision lists to record and approve, where applicable, these new toponyms.
- Work continued with Natural Resources Canada to upgrade Manitoba's digital toponymic data records through Natural Resources Canada's Quality Control and Name Delineation (QCAND) web application. QCAND provides Manitoba the opportunity to spatially delineate Manitoba's toponyms. Spatially referencing toponyms provides a user friendly, simple visual representation of how geographical names are applied to entire geographical features such as lakes, rivers, bays, hills, etc.

Toponyms have historically been stored as point data only. This project will now store toponyms as polygon data.

- Staff continued to research and approve official name decisions on behalf of the Minister of Conservation, who is responsible for Manitoba geographical names. These decisions and research enhance the Manitoba Geographical Names Data Base (MGNDB) which contains all current and archival toponyms (geographical names) and provides a means for its timely distribution through automated information systems, maps, brochures, gazetteers, and commemorative name certificates.

- Volunteer staff assisted in the preparation of special commemorative name certificates for the Battle of the Atlantic Day Remembrance Ceremony held on May 7th, 2006. The program researched the geographical features and the biographical information for the twelve Manitobans who lost their lives on the HMCS *Ottawa*.

- The service related to the dissemination of geographical name information to all Manitobans regarding the correct spelling, usage, origin of names, and, in particular, to government departments and agencies for support of a vital toponymic quality control service for government maps, signs, and other documentation was maintained.

- Liaison with the Geographical Names Board of Canada was maintained regarding name decisions, revisions of principles and procedures, and to ensure provincial interests and concerns are identified, evaluated, and considered in provincial, federal, and international decision-making processes.

Remote Sensing

- The Remote Sensing section provides earth observation services and related geo-spatial information from a range of air-craft and space-craft platforms to derive insight, evaluation and assessment of the natural and physical resources of Manitoba. This information helps to support natural resource management and environmental monitoring activities within the Department and other Government of Manitoba agencies.

- The Manitoba Remote Sensing Centre (MRSC) processed NOAA/AVHRR satellite data for the Canadian World Crop Monitoring Program, the Canadian Global Change Program, and Parks Canada, covering all of Canada, using GEOCOMP satellite image processing. Cloud-free image composites were created every 10 days between April 1 and October 31, 2005. In addition, 25 weekly (7 Day) composites were created between April 18 and October 9, 2005 for the Agriculture Division of Statistics Canada and their crop monitoring program.

- The MRSC in conjunction with the Forestry Branch and in cooperation with the Canadian Forest Service-Earth Observation for Sustainable Development (EOSD) of Forests project continued the forest land cover data for Manitoba using satellite data to meet core forest information needs of the Kyoto Protocol, the international Convention on Biological Diversity, and the Framework Convention on Climate Change. This was the third year of the project with work being carried out on the Boreal Shield and Boreal Plains using Landsat satellite imagery.

- Extensive field data collection of the Taiga Shield and Hudson Bay Plains was performed in August of 2005 for the purpose of producing accuracy assessment reports of the classified data.

- The MRSC, in partnership with Canadian Forest Service, delineated and mapped a sampling of the deforestation events that have occurred throughout Manitoba using Landsat satellite imagery spanning several years. The result is a key element for reporting to Environment Canada, the agency responsible for coordinating National Carbon Budget Data to meet reporting commitments.

Table LA.4
12.4(j)3 Remote Sensing

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	648.4	11.00	593.9	54.5	
Other Expenditures	245.7		308.2	(62.5)	
Less: Recoverable from Other Appropriations	0.0		(23.7)	23.7	
Total 12.4(j)3	**894.1**	**11.00**	**878.4**	**15.7**	

Land Mapping Services

The primary function of this section is to develop and maintain province wide digital property parcel cadastral data. The developed digital land parcel data forms a fundamental component of a province-wide, multi-purpose information system. Its goal is to provide provincial land data users with a means of spatially referencing their own land data records such as infrastructure, assessment, ownership and land use, to a common, geo-referenced, land parcel base that is timely, precise and homogeneous.

- More than 20,736 land parcels were added to the province's MLI Data Warehouse. This included new parcel data sets for the seven communities of Neepawa, Minnedosa, Crystal City, Pilot Mound, Wawanesa, Carberry and Rosenort as part of parcel mapping service provided to Community Planning Branch of Intergovernmental Affairs and Forestry Branch's Dutch Elm Disease program. A significant achievement this fiscal year was completion of full parcel mapping coverage for three provincial rural municipalities - Rural Municipality of Cartier, Rural Municipality of Ste. Anne and Rural Municipality of Victoria Beach - some 11 townships in all.

- The section created conceptual cottage lot subdivision design plans for 18 sites for the 2005/06 Manitoba Cottage Lot Initiative on behalf of Crown Lands. Six approved designs out of this group formed an integral part of the 2005 Spring and Fall public draws for provincial cottage lots the balance are under planning review or awaiting field survey. Those approved and finalized will form part of the forthcoming 2006 draws.

- The section continues to dedicate its efforts to development of a seamless digital Manitoba land reference grid which includes a fully topologically structured parcel based approximation of the Dominion Land Survey township/range quarter-section system in southern Manitoba. This product is deemed essential for meeting departmental and public sector requirements for a general purpose grid that will support land referencing and spatial referencing needs on several levels from thematic mapping to Geographic Information System application development. The section supports the cause by creating and maintaining the relevant map files as well as computing coordinates for the DLS township framework markers where they have been tied to provincial survey control networks.

Table LA.5

12.4(j)4 Land Mapping Services

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	623.6	9.00	581.3	42.3	
Other Expenditures	59.7		65.5	(5.8)	
Total 12.4(j)4	**683.3**	**9.00**	**646.8**	**36.5**	

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP DIVISION

Divisional Administration

Divisional administration provides direction for and facilitates development of legislation, policies, plans and programs to sustainably manage resources and the environment.

Divisional responsibilities include:

- Coordinating and integrating natural resource policy, legislation, environmental impact assessments, co-management agreements, land-use planning and resource allocation.
- Promoting and facilitating effective involvement of aboriginal people in management of natural resources and the environment.
- Managing the environmental approvals process to ensure sustainability of developments.
- Undertaking reviews to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of programming.
- Providing financial support to the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment and the Manitoba Eco-Network.
- Ensuring that effective relations are maintained with other governments.
- Negotiating resource co-management agreements.

Environmental Stewardship Division comprises:

- Sustainable Resource Management Branch
- Environmental Assessment and Licensing Branch
- Aboriginal Relations Branch

Table ES.1
12.5(a) Divisional Administration

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	161.7	2.00	172.8	(11.1)	
Other Expenditures	36.8		66.5	(29.7)	
Northern Initiatives	250.0		250.0	0.0	
Grant Assistance	116.5		122.5	(6.0)	
Total 12.5(a)	**565.0**	**2.00**	**611.8**	**(46.8)**	

Sustainable Resource Management

The Branch co-ordinates and integrates departmental policy, natural resource allocation and Crown land use planning, environmental impact assessment, legislative development and interpretation and co-management, in accordance with principles and guidelines of sustainable development. The Branch is responsible for the administration of ***The Sustainable Development Act.*** The Branch provides planning and policy assistance to local planning authorities, administers licensing of resource-based tourism facilities, represents the department in issues related to internal and international trade agreements, provides support on communication issues, prepares ministerial correspondence and co-ordinates departmental settlements and litigation arising out of hydro-electric and water-control projects and Treaty Land Entitlement.

The Branch provides strategic planning, analytic, economic and evaluative services to assist management to improve the effectiveness of departmental programming, Crown land-use planning and resource allocation. This includes:

- integrating conservation policies and programs with other departments, including inter-departmental and inter-governmental committee participation;
- assisting in the planning of land and resources by municipalities and planning districts;
- reviewing applications for funding under the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund, the Special Conservation and Endangered Species Fund;
- co-ordinating licensing of resource-based tourism facilities and services, such as hunting and fishing lodges, outfitters, and ecotourism; and
- leading an interdepartmental committee to establish a government position on Métis harvesting as a result of a recent Supreme Court of Canada decision, including participation in Federal/Provincial discussions.

Legislation and Inter-governmental Affairs

The Branch helps to ensure the appropriateness of conservation legislation and regulations and ensure that beneficial working relationships are established and maintained with other Canadian jurisdictions.

The Branch provides co-ordination for regional operations, other branches, departments, and agencies on new and amending legislation and on litigation. An advisory service on legislative interpretation and application is provided to the department and the public.

Legislation and regulations are developed, reviewed and amended, the department is represented on Federal/Provincial committees and task forces, and agreements are negotiated to ensure consistent and effective environmental management.

The Branch liaises with legal counsel in Manitoba Justice and provides internal consulting services on legislative/regulatory and policy development, public consultation, intergovernmental and other issues.

Legislation

Manitoba Conservation has administrative responsibility for 25 statutes and 92 regulations. In addition, Manitoba Conservation's officers have inspection and enforcement responsibilities under ***The Non-Smokers Health Protection Act***, as well as 10 regulations under ***The Public Health Act*** and a number of City of Winnipeg health by-laws.

The following legislative and regulatory activity within Manitoba Conservation's administrative mandate occurred during the reporting period:

- Amendments to ***The Wildlife Act*** were passed by the Manitoba Legislature, received Royal Assent and became effective on June 1, 2005.

- The *Allocation of Hunting Licences Regulation* was registered on March 27, 2006.

- Eighteen amending regulations were registered during the reporting period, amending fifteen existing regulations including:

    - two amendments to the *Ecological Reserves Designation Regulation* under ***The Ecological Reserves Act***

    - an amendment to each of the *Livestock Manure and Mortalities Management Regulation* and the *Water and Wastewater Facility Operators Regulation* under **The Environment Act**

    - two amendments to the *Designation of Provincial Forests Regulation* under ***The Forest Act***

    - an amendment to the *Ozone Depleting Substances Regulation* under **The Ozone Depleting Substances Act**

    - an amendment to each of the *Park Fees Regulation* and the *Park Reserves Designation Regulation* under ***The Provincial Parks Act***

    - an amendment to the *Tire Stewardship Regulation* under **The Waste Reduction and Prevention Act**

    - an amendment to each of the *Exotic Wildlife Regulation*, the *General Hunting Regulation*, the *Trapping of Wild Animals Regulation* and the *Wildlife Protection Regulation* and two amendments to each of the *Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits Regulation*, and the *Vehicle Use in Hunting Regulation* under ***The Wildlife Act***.

- More detail regarding the contents of the twenty legislative and regulatory initiatives identified above may be found in those sections of this report that provide program-specific descriptions of activities undertaken during the reporting period.

Intergovernmental Affairs

The following activities occurred during the reporting period.

- Support was provided to the Minister and Deputy Minister in their official activities representing Manitoba in the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment forum (CCME);
- staff continued to work co-operatively with the CCME Secretariat and other Canadian jurisdictions to co- ordinate and advance environmental management issues across Canada;
- trade and environment issues were monitored including the Canada/United States softwood lumber trade dispute;
- staff supported the Minister as member of the Governmental Committee for Canada's representation on the North American Commission for Environmental Co-operation;
- monitored activities related to the Five-Year Parliamentary Review of the Canadian Environment Protection Act (CEPA) 1999;
- participated as Manitoba's representative on the following intergovernmental committees:
    - North American Agreement on Environmental Co-operation (Canada Implementation Working Committee and Canada Implementation Senior Officials Committee),

- Canadian Council of Ministers of Environment Committees, including fulfilling Manitoba's role as Chair of the National Contaminated Site Liability Scoping Group, and the follow-up committee, the Contaminated Site and Brownfield Task Group which has now completed its work and published new national principles,
- CCME Environmental Protection and Planning Committee;

- staff provided support to the government's climate change and water stewardship activities and liaised with staff overseeing these activities; and
- staff assisted with international projects including China, Vietnam, and France.

The Branch represented the department in trade matters related to the *Agreement on Internal Trade*, *NAFTA* and *GATT/WTO* agreements. Activities included representing the department in development and implementation of the *Processing of Natural Resources* chapter of the ***Agreement on Internal Trade***, co-ordinating activities associated with implementation of *NAFTA*, monitoring trade developments in resource issues, and conducting liaison with other departments and jurisdictions on trade matters involving resources.

Co-Management Initiatives

The Branch develops policy, procedures and guidelines for co-management of natural resources with First Nations, communities and organizations and leads departmental participation in various settlement agreements. Activities undertaken included:

- co-ordinated consultation with First Nations and northern communities on resource allocations for lodges and outfitters;
- oversaw the implementation and development of the *Northern Flood Agreement* resource management agreements and Grand Rapids Forebay Comprehensive Agreements;
- lead co-management discussions on new departmental initiatives (Opaskwayak Cree Nation, the West Region Tribal Council and the Manitoba Métis Federation);
- acted as a liaison with other provinces, territories and the federal government; and
- lead an interdepartmental committee to establish a government position on Métis harvesting as a result of a recent Supreme Court of Canada decision. This includes participation in Federal/Provincial discussions.

Treaty Land Entitlement

The Branch formulates the department's position on Treaty Land Entitlement issues. Policies are developed concerning the availability of Crown land to meet Treaty Land Entitlement obligations. The Branch also leads Departmental involvement in new Treaty Land Entitlement agreements.

Hydro-Electric and Water-Control Project Settlements

The Branch led departmental input into settlements arising out of the *Northern Flood Agreement*, the *Grand Rapids Forebay Project*, Fairford River control structure and other claims by First Nations and communities resulting from hydro-electric or water-control projects. Negotiations with Cross Lake First Nation regarding the *Northern Flood Agreement* are continuing as are settlement efforts with the communities of Cross Lake and Norway House.

Licensing Advisory Committee

The Branch provides secretariat and Chair for the Licensing Advisory Committee (LAC). The Committee, comprising Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Culture, Heritage and Tourism, Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs and Manitoba Water Stewardship, makes recommendations to the Administrator of

Resource Tourism on the licensing of outfitters and their services, and the permitting of their associated facilities, for the purposes of hunting, fishing and ecotourism activities. About 1,375 licences and permits were issued last year.

The Branch serves as secretariat to the Resource Tourism Appeals Committee, which provides an appeal mechanism for operators wishing to appeal a decision of the Administrator of Resource Tourism.

Sustainable Development Implementation

The Branch administers ***The Sustainable Development Act***, co-ordinates implementation of the Act within the department and supports and assists in the implementation of the Act interdepartmentally, by Crown corporations, universities, colleges, school divisions, regional health authorities and local government. The Branch provides information on the requirements of the Act and process for and progress made at implementation.

During the reporting period:

- the Provincial Sustainability Report was released June 30, 2005; and
- the Branch provided administrative and research services and support to the Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development.
  - A slate of new members was appointed to the Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development during 2005/06. The Round Table undertook activities to set group priorities, become familiar with government policies and procedures and provide input to government policy and publications.
  - During 2005/06, there were 35 members of the Manitoba Round Table, with the Minister of Conservation as Co-chair. The Round Table met three times over the 2005/06 period.
  - Six committees were instituted, based on member interest areas and identified priorities. These included the CEPA Review Committee, Waste Committee, Green Building Committee, Climate Change and Alternative Energy Committee, Water Committee and Agriculture Committee.
  - The Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development Scholarship for 2005/06 was awarded to two Manitoba students. A sum of $4,000 was awarded to Paul Mutch of the University of Manitoba on his graduate research on tall grass prairie habitat restoration around the city of Winnipeg, and $1,000 was awarded to Sarah Morriss for her undergraduate work at the University of Winnipeg on Sustainable Development Guidelines and Principles.

Land Use Planning

The Branch coordinate three principal land use planning initiatives - broad area planning, Crown land planning and departmental input into local municipal planning. Additionally, the Branch is the departmental lead in the regular review of the province's land use policies and assists in various related land programs, including the Protected Areas Initiative.

East Side Lake Winnipeg Broad Area Planning Initiative

The Branch coordinated the Wabanong Nakaygum Okimawin (WNO) Planning Initiative (formerly known as the East Side Planning Initiative), through a Secretariat which provides administrative, planning and research support to its principal bodies, the WNO Council and the Council of Chiefs, as well as numerous advisory bodies and working groups.

The following key activities were carried out in 2005/06.

- An orientation session was held for community coordinators, hired to assist their respective First Nation community to develop a vision and strategies that reflect community priorities. The Secretariat visited numerous communities in support of the community coordinators and a final report, entitled "Early Strategic Planning Project", was submitted and becomes part of the WNO Planning Initiative Public Record.

- A presentation on the East Side of Lake Winnipeg Broad Area Planning Initiative was delivered to delegates attending the 3rd Inter-Jurisdictional Conference on Aboriginal Involvement in Natural Resource Management. The conference theme was "Integrating Aboriginal People in Natural Resource Management".

- Draft Community-based Land Use Planning Guidelines were prepared to assist communities in land planning of their traditional territories. A workshop was held to present and discuss the Guidelines which involved community leadership, Elders and other community members, as well as people with experience in community land use planning. The purpose of the workshop was to help communities develop a more unified understanding about the community-based land planning process, its purpose and limitations, and lay the ground work for starting community land use plans in communities ready to do so.

- Work began on the incorporation of an independent WNO entity to enable First Nation communities' direct participation in the community-based land use planning process. This entity, with the assistance from the WNO Secretariat, will lead and manage the community-based land use planning initiative.

- Discussions were initiated on a Protocol Agreement between the First Nation Governments located within the planning area and the Province of Manitoba. The Protocol is to serve as a foundation and guide for First Nation governments to be involved in decisions that will affect their communities and traditional territories.

- Work began on the development of a Draft Broad Area Plan for the East Side of Lake Winnipeg, using the recommendations from the East Side of Lake Winnipeg Round Table Status Report: *Promises to Keep: Towards a Broad Area Plan for the East Side of Lake Winnipeg* as a starting point. The status report was submitted to the Province by the East Side Round Table in September 2004, and received broad consensus at the time. Its recommendations form the basis for strategic direction in a Broad Area Plan, which in turn, will be used as a basis for on-going dialogue on planning issues of regional scope.

Crown Land Planning

The Branch provided planning and policy analysis support to the Crown Lands ADM Committee. The Branch, in conjunction with regional Bloc Planning Committees, maintains and administers a system of operational land use coding on Crown land, and prepares Crown Land Plans. The Branch also administers the Committee's system for the review and determination on disposition (sale, exchange, designation by Order-in-Council) of Crown lands, and formulates and maintains the committee's policy and procedure manual.

The following key activities were carried out in 2005/06.

- The Branch completed the annual updating of the report *Interdepartmental Operational Crown Land Plans Report* for 2006 which was printed and distributed. About 765 land classification changes were made to the Crown land plans. These plans are used in the day-to-day administration of Crown land and support various government initiatives and departmental programs.

- The Branch circulated to the members of the Interdepartmental Planning Board, local councils, conservation districts and Bloc Planning Committees a number of proposed Crown land designations. The following proposed Crown land designations were reviewed:
  - Birch River Ecological Reserve
  - Whitemouth Bog Ecological Reserve
  - Whitemouth Bog Wildlife Management Area
  - Great Grey Owl Provincial Park
  - Whitemouth Fall Provincial Park Boundary Adjustment
  - Delta Marsh Wildlife Management Area

- The Branch provided support for the activities of Bloc Planning Committees # 6 and 7 (Eastern and Interlake regions of Manitoba) in the assessment and coding of Crown lands in support of a new forest mill which would utilize hardwoods from Crown land.

- The Branch also facilitated the review of 21 Crown land sale applications and prepared 59 Crown land sale appeal reports for the consideration of the Crown Land ADM Committee.

Other Crown Land Programs

- The Branch provided advice and support for the Protected Areas Initiative and related activities including discussions on the development of agreements with the Nature Conservancy of Canada and Ducks Unlimited Canada in support of the program. The Stuartburn Crown land pilot project was initiated in support of the agreement with the Nature Conservancy of Canada.

- The Branch initiated a policy paper respecting the use and allocation of Crown land for the purposes of wind farms in support of the province's Energy Development Initiative and the commitment to develop 1000 megawatts of electrical energy for wind over the coming decade.

- The Branch also continued to build the Crown land use classification GIS data base for southern Manitoba. Using the information on Crown land use coding in the *Interdepartmental Operational Crown Land Plans Report*, the data is checked against the Crown Land registry and recorded in the GIS data base. The data base is about 50% completed for southern Manitoba.

Municipal Land Planning

The Branch assists municipalities and Planning Districts in the preparation of development plans and zoning by-laws by co-ordinating preparation of departmental advice and information on planning, management and use of natural resources (wildlife, forests, outdoor recreation, ecological significant areas, parks, natural areas and Crown lands) and responding to requests for studies, maps, and statistical compilations required to properly allocate resources.

The Branch co-ordinates development of departmental positions and advice on all proposed new and amended *Development Plans* and *Zoning By-laws* and other municipal issues such as road closures and land annexations.

- As of January 2004, the Branch undertook to coordinate the departmental review of all proposed subdivisions within the Red River Region. Since then, the Branch has undertaken to assess one lot subdivisions with respect to the *On-site Wastewater Management System* Regulation on behalf of the Red River region. At the same time, a data base to track all municipal proposals was also initiated.

- For the fiscal year 2005/06, the Branch coordinated the departmental review of:
  - 525 proposed land subdivisions (Red River Region only),
  - 109 proposed municipal zoning by-laws and amendments,
  - 59 proposed development plans and amendments, and
  - 19 other proposed municipal land related issues.

Table SR.1
12.5(b) Sustainable Resource Management

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	861.6	15.00	1,014.6	(153.0)	1.
Other Expenditures	762.2		748.7	13.5	
Grant Assistance	10.2		10.2	0.0	
Total 12.5(b)	**1,634.0**	**15.00**	**1,773.5**	**(139.5)**	

1. Under expenditure in Salaries and Employee Benefits is due to higher than anticipated vacant positions.

Environmental Assessment and Licensing Branch

The Environmental Assessment and Licensing Branch administers the ***The Environment Act***, ***The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act***, ***The Public Health Act***, ***The Pesticides Regulation***, and, ***the Water and Wastewater Facility Operators Regulation.***

The Branch is responsible for:

- ensuring development in Manitoba is carried out in an environmentally sustainable manner;
- regulating the use of pesticides to protect the public and the environment from potential adverse affects associated with improper use;
- regulating municipal, industrial, and hazardous waste sources of pollutants;
- ensuring wastewater and water treatment and distribution facilities are operated by competent and qualified operators;
- ensuring that all developments in Manitoba are constructed and operated in accordance with the Environment Act;
- leading the environmental assessment process to ensure it is fair, consistent, transparent and offers opportunity for public participation; and,
- providing regulatory expertise to stakeholders.

The Branch consists of three sections: Municipal, Industrial, and Hazardous Waste; Land-Use; and, Pesticide Use. Responsibilities of each section are provided below.

Municipal, Industrial, and Hazardous Waste Section

The municipal, industrial and hazardous waste section:

- Co-ordinates environmental assessment and licensing of proposed Developments;
- Recommends conditions to the Director and Minister for *Development Licences*,
- Advises on technical aspects of pollutant treatment, control strategies, and hazardous waste;
- Reviews mine site rehabilitation schemes;
- Provides technical assistance to municipal, provincial, and federal governments on wastewater collection, treatment and disposal, air emission control, and management of hazardous wastes;
- Provides technical support to other Departments;
- Conducts inspection and enforcement activity for developments in planning, construction, and operating stages;
- Responds to complaints and inquiries;
- Administers the Water and Wastewater Facility Operators Regulation;
- Administers the Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act; and,
- Represents the Department at public meetings or hearings.

Environmental Land Use Section

The Environmental Land Use section:

- Leads the environmental assessment and licensing process for proposed developments in the recreation, transportation, transmission, pipeline, hydro-electric generation, forestry, alternative energy, and water development and control sectors;
- Coordinates the environmental review of proposed Treaty Land Entitlements;
- Coordinates the environmental review of Canada/Manitoba Infrastructure Works projects;
- Participates in developing and revising environmental and land-use legislation, policies and procedures;
- Provides technical advice for projects and program planning, including screening of Manitoba Transportation and Government Services projects;
- Participates on interdepartmental committees;

- Reviews and approves projects with environmental impacts not included in *Classes of Development Regulation*;
- Conducts inspection and enforcement for developments in the planning, construction, and operating stages;
- Responds to complaints and inquiries; and
- Represents the Department at hearings and public meetings.

Pesticide Section

The Pesticide section:

- Provides professional expertise to government departments, the public, and industry on safe pesticide/fertilizer use, storage, disposal, and control;
- Manages a *Pesticide Permit* system to address public concerns/objections and to ensure all pesticides are controlled in a manner to protect public health and the environment;
- Recommends conditions to the Director and Minister for ***Environment Act*** *Licences* for the agricultural and biodiesel sectors;
- Participates in periodic revision of *National Standard for Pesticide Education, Training, and Certification in Canada* for pesticide applicators and vendors;
- Provides technical expertise and advice on container disposal and other environmental concerns;
- Supplies expertise to the Federal, Provincial, Territorial Committee on Pest Management and Pesticides through annual national meetings and telephone conferences;
- Serves on FPT Sub-Committees: for Healthy Lawns, Classification Implementation Group, Buffer Zone Committee and Risk Communication Committee ;
- Serves on the Board of Directors and provides information to the Prairie Provinces Certified Crop Advisor program;
- Conducts inspection and enforcement activity for agricultural developments in the planning, construction, and operating stages, and
- Responds to complaints and inquiries respecting pesticide/fertilizer use.

Table EA.1

Environmental Assessment and Licensing Activities

(ELU - Environmental Land Use; P - Pesticide; MIHW - Municipal, Industrial, and Hazardous Waste)

Activities	ELU (#)		P (#)		MIHW (#)		Total	
	05/06	04/05	05/06	04/05	05/06	04/05	05/06	04/05
The Environment Act								
Project proposals received	17	13	10	7	18	24	45	44
Project proposals processed	13	11	10	7	21	18	44	36
Project proposals refused	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	0
Minor alterations requests received	5	10	6	3	34	26	45	39
Minor alterations requests processed	3	10	6	3	33	26	42	39
Revision requests to *Licences* approved	3	6	0	0	9	3	12	9
Pre-Licensing activities processed	23	36	0	0	18	11	41	47
Highways pre-planning reviews	4	7			0		4	7
Infrastructure project reviews-Can/Man	0	27				33	0	60
Hydro Low Voltage reviews	3	5					3	5
Other Reviews. Licence not required	31	41	0	0	6	3	37	44
Site inspections, monitoring and enforcement	56	84	62	69	40	48	158	201
Pesticide Use Permits Issued			225	228			225	228
Post Seasonal Reports received/compiled			216	222			216	222
Public complaints investigated	12	24	8	7	5	9	25	40
Public meetings attended	7	29	2	4	0	12	9	45
Public Hearings attended	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	3
The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act								
Project proposals received					5	8	5	8
Project proposals processed					3	3	3	3
Minor alterations requests received					11	2	11	2
Minor alterations requests processed					10	1	10	1
Pre-Licensing activities					7	8	7	8
Site inspections, monitoring and enforcement					0	10	0	10
Public meetings attended					0	0	0	0
The Public Health Act								
Fumigation Permits issued			2	2			2	2
Water and Wastewater Operator Certification Regulation								
Certification Examination					903	850	903	850
Plant Classifications Issued					250	0	250	0
Operators Certificates Issued					74	0	74	0

The following key activities were carried out in 2005/06.

- Recommended revisions to the Classes of Development Regulation. The draft revisions were placed on the public registries for review and comment. Comments will be reviewed, with a view to issuing the amended regulation in fiscal year 2006/07.

- The Canada/Manitoba Agreement on Environmental Assessment and Cooperation expired in May, 2005. The document was reviewed internally and placed on the public registries for review and comment with only minor administrative changes from the original version issued in May 2000. No significant concerns were raised.
- The program to implement the *Water and Wastewater Facility Operators Regulation* is operational. An amending regulation was passed to address necessary changes to the *Water and Wastewater Facility Operators Regulation*. The Branch has been very active in attending public meetings, making presentations to stakeholders, facilitating exams, setting up a records management system, and reviewing applications.
- Licences were issued to the City of Winnipeg for its North End and South End wastewater treatment plants.
- The Branch has been working with several project teams that are interested in expanding the livestock processing capacity in the province. Advice documents on environmental impact assessments were prepared to assist project proponents.
- The Branch has been active in the development of a Municipal Wastewater Strategy in accordance with direction from the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment. The development of this strategy is a joint effort of all regulatory jurisdictions in Canada. Consultation with municipalities and other stakeholders is ongoing.
- Winter road relocations - Co-ordinated the environmental assessment and licencing of a major winter road relocation in accordance with *The Environment Act*.
- Hydro Projects: The cooperative environmental review and consultation processes under the *Canada-Manitoba Agreement on Environmental Assessment Co-operation* continued with respect to the proposed Wuskwatim projects. Issuance of Environment Act licences for the projects is contingent upon the results of the Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation (NCN) community referendum to establish support for the Project Development Agreement. This vote is to be held in June 2006.
- Flood Protection Works: Environmental assessment activities concluded for the expansion of the Red River Floodway. A cooperative environmental assessment process was conducted with federal agencies pursuant to the *Canada-Manitoba Agreement on Environmental Assessment Co-operation*. An *Environment Act* Licence was issued for the project on July 8, 2005. An appeal was filed and is currently under review.
- Wind Energy Projects: An Environment Act Licence was issued for the Pembina Hills Wind Farm. Pembina Hills is the second wind farm in Manitoba located near St. Leon on the Pembina Hills escarpment. *Environment Act* licence applications were also filed for the Killarney and Dacotah wind energy projects. All wind energy project reviews under *The Environment Act* to date involve 99 mega watts.
- Pesticide Use Permits - Review and approval of applications for pesticide use continued. Government departments and municipalities require a Pesticide Use Permit annually.
- Crop Protection Warehouses/Fertilizer Developments - Review of applications to upgrade agricultural chemical storage facilities to meet industry standards continued. All facilities are required to meet stringent requirements in order to receive chemical products.
- Continued to work with Manitoba Health to develop a protocol to respond to potential health emergencies due to the discovery of West Nile Virus.
- Completed the environmental assessment for a major ethanol plant in Minnedosa.
- Continue to review proposals for new biodiesel developments.

Table EA.2
Suspensions or Variations under *The Environment Act* 2005/06

Section 18(2) of ***The Environment Act*** states:
"A suspension or variation granted pursuant to subsection (1) shall be recorded in the public registry and in the Department's annual report." The following suspensions requests were approved by the Department of Conservation during the 2005/06 fiscal year:

Date	Location	Purpose
Apr 14/05	Rice Lake Gold Corporation Bissett Gold Mine	Emergency Discharge Environment Act Licence No. 2628 R
Apr 15/05	Aboriginal & Northern Affairs Seymourville Lagoon	Emergency Discharge Environment Act Licence No. 1171
Apr 20/05	Beausejour, Town of Beausejour Lagoon	Emergency Discharge Environment Act Licence No. 1303
Apr 22/05	Conservation, Dept. of West Hawk Lake Lagoon	Emergency Discharge Environment Act Licence No. 1077
May 12/05	La Broquerie, R.M. of La Broquerie Lagoon	Emergency Discharge Environment Act Licence No. 1198 R
May 13/05	Concord Colony Farms Ltd. Wastewater Treatment Lagoon	Emergency Discharge Environment Act Licence No. 1165
May 13/05	Tache, R.M. of Lorette Wastewater Treatment Lagoon	Emergency Discharge Environment Act Licence No. 2439 R
May 13/05	Altona, Town of Altona Wastewater Treatment Lagoon	Emergency Discharge Environment Act Licence No. 1681 R
May 13/05	Winkler, City of Winkler Wastewater Treatment Lagoon	Emergency Discharge Environment Act Licence No. 2525
May 18/05	Brokenhead, R.M. of Tyndall Wastewater Treatment Lagoon	Emergency Discharge Environment Act Licence No. 941
May 20/05	Conservation, Dept. of Falcon Lake Wastewater Treatment Lagoon	Emergency Discharge Environment Act Licence 2442 RR
May 24/05	Winkler, City of Winkler Wastewater Treatment Lagoon	Emergency Discharge Environment Act Licence No. 2525
May 26/05	Camp Arnes	Emergency Discharge Environment Act Licence No. 1707
June 7/05	Concord Colony Farms Ltd. Wastewater Treatment Lagoon	Emergency Discharge Environment Act Licence No. 1165
July 4/05	Interlake Colony Farms Ltd. Wastewater Treatment Lagoon	Emergency Discharge Environment Act Licence No. 1147
July 14/05	Dunnottar, Village of Wastewater Treatment Lagoon	Emergency Discharge Environment Act Licence No. 1050
July 15/05	Manitoba Conservation Opapiskaw Wastewater Lagoon	Emergency Discharge Environment Act Licence No. 752
Nov. 04/05	Morris, Town of Waste Water Facility	Emergency Discharge Environment Act Licence No. 2562 R
Nov. 04/05	Manitoba Conservation West Hawk Lake Wastewater Lagoon	Emergency Discharge Environment Act Licence No. 1077
Nov. 23/05	Lorne, R.M. of St. Leon Waste Water Facility	Emergency Discharge Environment Act Licence No. 2090
Feb. 15/06	Solid Waste Area Management Project	Burial of composed animals Environment Act Licence # 2109S2R
Mar. 23/06	Selkirk, City of Wastewater Treatment Pant	Disinfection Limits Environment Act Licence #2265 R

Table EA.3

12.5(c) Environmental Assessment and Licensing

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	924.0	15.00	1,011.2	(87.2)	1.
Other Expenditures	201.7		264.5	(62.8)	
Total 12.5(c)	**1,125.7**	**15.00**	**1,275.7**	**(150.0)**	

1. Under expenditure is due to higher than anticipated vacancies which has resulted in reduced operating costs.

Aboriginal Relations

The Branch was established to build the relationships between the Department and the Aboriginal people of Manitoba. It is necessary to maintain this level of commitment in order to meet the increasing requirements of the Aboriginal community and Manitoba Conservation.

In providing leadership and direction for the Department, the Branch participates in strategic planning processes, such as development of policies, legislation, and programs to ensure that Aboriginal and Treaty rights are recognized and respected. The Branch is accountable for the research, analysis, development, implementation and evaluation of new and existing resource programs. The Branch is also engaged in development of integrated resource policies, legislation relating to land use, co-management, resource allocation, environmental impacts, sustainable development initiatives, and enforcement. As well, the Branch facilitates communication between the various user interests and the Department and provides support to the Manitoba Model Forest.

The Branch continues to play an instrumental role is developing a policy on consultation with First Nation people. It is the intent that the consultation policy will be reviewed with First Nations prior to being finalized. The Branch has also taken a lead role in facilitating dialogue between the Aboriginal community and the Department.

The following key activities were carried out in 2005/06.

General Activities

- Provided an Aboriginal perspective on natural resource management programs, and drafted an Aboriginal Policy for the department.
- Met with Aboriginal community to identify respective concerns and issues, and assisted in developing action plans to resolve Aboriginal community issues.
- Provided direction for the Department and Aboriginal community in natural resource management programs and issues.
- Participated in discussions and negotiations to develop formal agreements for managing natural resources. Of particular interest are the negotiations regarding the W.N.O. protocol agreement.
- Provided educational information through varied media to the Department, Aboriginal, and non-Aboriginal communities.
- Attended meetings and gatherings in Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, and with the various users of natural resources.
- Responded to inquiries from the Department, resource users, public, and educational institutions.

Specific Activities

- Participated in meaningful consultation with those people whose Treaty and Aboriginal rights may be impacted by the proposed Wuskwatim Generation Station and Transmission Line Projects. ARB participated as members of the Wuskwatim Steering Committee and the Wuskwatim Consultation Team.
- Served as Provincial negotiator for the province for the East Side of Lake Winnipeg Planning Initiative.
- Continued to facilitate meetings and dialogue between licensed resource users and Aboriginal resource users.
- Continued to participate in development of co-management agreements with the Opaskwayak Cree Nation and the West Region Tribal Council.

- Reviewed and commented on Crown land sale lists.
- Continued to advance the need for a policy review to recognize the interests of First Nations people in the use and disposition (sale and lease) of Crown land.
- In consultation with Elders (Cree, Dakota and Ojibway), continued to refine the existing policy for Disposition of Dead Wild Animals to recognize the importance of wildlife including birds of prey and their disposition for traditional purposes by First Nations people.
- Updated and maintained the Aboriginal Relations Branch webpage for Manitoba Conservation website.
- Circulated and promoted a joint education video production with First Nation hunters and the Manitoba Wildlife Federation, entitled *Hunter and Firearm Safety*.
- Circulated and promoted the brochure, *Fishing, Hunting and Trapping: The Rights and Responsibilities of First Nation Peoples*.
- Provided leadership to the Manitoba Model Forest in the development of a new five-year funding program with Natural Resources Canada, Canadian Forest Service.
- Discussed with Aboriginal leaders a dialogue forum and communication process between the Department and Manitoba Aboriginal communities.
- Organized and show cased a very successful National Conference in Winnipeg concerning the involvement of Aboriginal People in Natural Resource Management.

Table AR.1

12.5(d) Aboriginal Relations

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Salaries and Employee Benefits	225.7	4.00	262.2	(36.5)	
Other Expenditures	34.7		48.8	(14.1)	
Total 12.5(d)	**260.4**	**4.00**	**311.0**	**(50.6)**	

International Institute For Sustainable Development

The Institute promotes the concept of environmentally sustainable economic development and the integration of the principles and practices of sustainable development within and between the public, private and voluntary sectors on a national and international basis.

The Institute issues a separate Annual Report. Copies can be obtained from the Institute at 161 Portage Avenue East, 6th Floor, Winnipeg, MB R3B 0Y4. The Institute can be contacted at 204-958-7700.

Table IISD.1

12.6 International Institute for Sustainable Development

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Other Expenditures	1,145.9		1,145.9	0.0	
Total 12.6	**1,145.9**		**1,145.9**	**0.0**	

MINOR CAPITAL PROJECTS

Departmental programs were supported by purchasing equipment and paying for minor infrastructure. Funding was allocated for computer hardware, office renovations, and equipment.

Table IM.1
12.7(a) Equipment

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Other Expenditures	281.2		305.9	(24.7)	
Total 12.7(a)	**281.2**		**305.9**	**(24.7)**	

Critical Heritage Marshes

The Heritage Marsh Program incorporates marshes known to be of extraordinary importance to the well being of wildlife and people. Eight Heritage Marshes are formally recognized (Saskeram, Summerberry, Delta, Oak Hammock, Rat River, Grants Lake, Proven Lake, and Lidcliff), and an additional 19 have been identified as candidate marshes.

Support continued for research on the ecological health and future of Delta Marsh. Recognized locally and internationally as an important prairie wetland, the marsh ecosystem has undergone significant negative changes, in part due to relatively constant water levels brought on by the regulation of water levels on Lake Manitoba. Marshlands require a natural water regime that includes wet and drought cycles to maintain their biodiversity. Carp impact and vegetation studies were carried out in partnership with the University of Manitoba and Ducks Unlimited Canada. Negotiations were undertaken to purchase an additional 31 hectare (80 acre) parcel of land for inclusion in the proposed Delta Marsh WMA.

In co-operation with the Watchable Wildlife Program an orientation kiosk was developed for installation near the Delta Heritage Marsh sign along PR 240.

The range of purple loosestrife, an introduced wetland species, continues to expand, threatening important marsh ecosystems. The Manitoba Purple Loosestrife Project team is chaired by the Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch and includes Ducks Unlimited Canada and the City of Winnipeg. Objectives are to control purple loosestrife through research, management, and expansion of biological control programs. Approximately 25,000 beetles were raised and released as a biological control measure in 2005.

Table IM.2
12.7(b) Critical Heritage Marshes

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Other Expenditures	119.7		120.0	(0.3)	
Total 12.7(b)	**119.7**		**120.0**	**(0.3)**	

Park Facilities

The program involved minor campground infrastructure upgrades, including minor campground expansion, minor equipment upgrades and redevelopment projects. Additional emergency repairs were also completed at Spruce Woods, Asessippi, St. Malo, Hecla and Turtle Mountain Provincial Parks as a result of spring flooding and heavy rains. Trans Canada Trail development continued in the Whiteshell Provincial Park along with the Tall Grass Prairie redevelopment program at Beaudry Provincial Park.

Table IM.3
12.7(c) Park Facilities

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Other Expenditures	2,240.3		2,369.3	(129.0)	
Total 12.7(c)	**2,240.3**		**2,369.3**	**(129.0)**	

Cottaging & Camping Initiative

As part of the Provincial Camping Initiative, improvements and major upgrades include the electrification of campsites at Falcon Lake, Seven Sisters, Paint Lake and Rivers. In addition to the electrification, water service was also installed on additional camp sites at Falcon Lake, Bakers and Turtle Mountain. A small modern washroom was also constructed at Spruce Woods.

New initiatives included the continuation of the Provincial Camping Initiative.

- Asessippi – 6 electrical sites
- Rivers – 12 electrical sites
- Adam Lake – 28 electrical / water sites
- Childs Lake – 7 basic sites
- Falcon Lakeshore – 11 electrical sites
- Falcon Beach – 20 electrical sites

Table IM.4
12.7(d) Cottaging and Camping Initiatives

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
Other Expenditures	979.6		2,747.4	(1,767.8)	1.
Total 12.7(d)	**979.6**		**2,747.4**	**(1,767.8)**	

1. Under expenditure is due to an adjustment of ($1,407.5) due to the new accounting policy for unsold cottage lots. In addition, lot development did not proceed as planned due to weather, survey delays, town/municipality zoning delays and aboriginal and archeological impacts ($360.3).

COSTS RELATED TO CAPITAL ASSETS

The Department expended the annual amortization costs of all completed assets based on the useful life of each asset. Assets purchased or constructed in 2005/06 were expended at one-half the annual amortization rate. The amortization expense also included the portion of corporate information technology projects attributable to the Department. In 2005/06, the Province extended its capital asset accounting policy to infrastructure assets.

Table ACA.1

12.8 Costs Related to Capital Assets

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
(a) Desktop Services					
(1) Amortization Expense - Transition	130.5		130.6	(0.1)	
(2) Enterprise Software Licenses	232.4		232.4	0.0	
(b) General Assets					
(1) Amortization Expense	1,141.3		1,195.3	(54.0)	
(2) Interest Expense	397.2		356.7	40.5	
(c) Infrastructure Assets					
(1) Amortization Expense	1,865.0		1,981.9	(116.9)	
(2) Interest Expense	1,674.6		2,292.7	(618.1)	
Total 12.8	**5,441.0**		**6,189.6**	**(748.6)**	

The in-year cost of acquiring capital assets or assets under construction is provided through Part B – Capital Investment for which amortization and interest expense is reflected as a departmental operating expense. Part B – Capital Investment is highlighted in the following section.

PART B – GENERAL ASSETS

B.4 Capital Investment - General Assets provides for the refurbishment and upgrade of facilities and the acquisition of machinery and equipment.

Machinery and equipment purchases in 2005/06 included one snowmobile groomer, two fuel tanks, one infra red scanner used to detect underground fires, four industrial mowers, one garbage packer and truck, four all terrain vehicles and a tandem trailer for Regional Operations and Conservation Programs.

Projects included implementation of the Parks Reservation System, Polar Bear Facility Expansion, Island Lake Warehouse repairs, and EMS system upgrade.

Table GA.1
Part B.4 General Assets

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE's	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
B.4	2,221.2		450.0	(1,771.2)	1.
Enabling Appropriation re: Internal Reform Allocation			1,792.7	1,792.7	2.
Total B.4	**2,221.2**		2,242.7	(21.5)	

1. The following additional projects/purchases were completed in 2005/06.
   - Parks Reservation System implementation.
   - Snowmobile groomer purchase.
   - Two fuel tank purchases.
   - Polar Bear Facility expansion.
   - Island Lake Warehouse repairs.
   - EMS system upgrade.

2. The Department accessed Internal Reform funding for the additional project costs and purchases.

PART B – CAPITAL INVESTMENT

Part B – Capital Investment reflects the annual cost of purchasing or acquiring tangible capital assets which meet established guidelines for amortization. Tangible capital assets are those with a useful life extending beyond one year which are acquired, constructed or developed for use, not for resale. As indicated in the Department's operating expenditures (appropriation 12.8 Costs Related to Capital Assets), amortization and interest are reflected as part of the annual cost of delivery of programs. Tangible capital assets are categorized between General Assets (buildings, machinery and equipment) and Infrastructure Assets (roads and parks infrastructure).

Infrastructure Assets

Infrastructure Asset purchases and acquisitions in 2005/06 included:

- Major Environmental Upgrades (Wastewater, Water Systems and/or Solid Waste) were initiated at Birds Hill, Big Whiteshell, Moose Lake, Hecla and Nutimik Lake. A provincial inventory of all water and wastewater facilities was also initiated.

- Introduction of the Provincial Camping Lite Program (Yurts) was completed at Nutimik Lake in the Whiteshell and also initiated at Spruce Woods, Asessippi, Bakers and Clearwater Provincial Parks.

- In conjunction with Manitoba Government Services, a large modern washroom was constructed at Blue Lake in Duck Mountain Provincial Park.

- Emergency repairs and replacement of a major portion of the Winnipeg Beach Seawall along Lake Winnipeg was completed in conjunction with Manitoba Water Stewardship.

- Falcon Waterfront final design tendering and initial construction of pier which is the final phase of the waterfront development.

- The first 10 yurts were introduced to the provincial park system in July 2005 at New Nutimik campground. Public reception was very favourable, with yurt occupancy at 64% for the season.

- Within the Provincial Cottaging Initiative, the access road for 30 cottage lots was completed at White Sands in the Grindstone area of the Hecla/Grindstone Provincial Park. Additionally 25 lots were developed at Childs Lake and six infill lots at Singush Lake in Duck Mountain Provincial Park. Since the program's inception in 2004, Parks has offered 61 new lots available for lease. Parks inventory has seen a total of 230 lots offered in the program and an overall lease rate of 71%

Table CI.1

Part B.13 Infrastructure Assets

Expenditures by Sub-appropriation	Actual 2005/06 $(000)	FTE's	Estimate 2005/06 $(000)	Variance Over/(Under) $(000)	Expl. No.
13(a) Parks Infrastructure Projects	2,054.6		2,725.1	(670.5)	
13(b) Cottaging and Camping Initiatives	1,269.9		3,626.0	(2,356.1)	1.
Total B.13	**3,324.5**		6,351.1	(3,026.6)	

1. Lot development did not proceed as planned due to weather, survey delays, town/municipality zoning delays and aboriginal and archeological impacts.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INTEGRATION

Under *The Sustainable Development Act*, each department is required to integrate into its annual reporting process information about progress made in incorporating sustainable development into its activities. The section below provides just a few examples of the many activities the Department has undertaken to incorporate or apply the Principles and Guidelines of Sustainable Development into its everyday operations and activities. Please note that a particular example may exemplify more than one principle and/or guideline.

Principles of Sustainable Development

Integration of Environmental, Social, Health and Economic Decisions

To meet the intent of Principle # 1, the Department would need to ensure:

a) its economic decisions and activities adequately reflect environmental, human health and social effects; and
b) its environmental and health decisions, activities and initiatives adequately take into account economic, human health and social consequences.

- Discussions were initiated on a Protocol Agreement between the First Nation Governments located within the East Side Lake Winnipeg planning area and the Province of Manitoba. The Protocol is to serve as a foundation and guide for First Nation governments to be involved in decisions (environmental, economic, health and social) that will affect their communities and traditional territories.

- Conservation continued working with the First Nation Forestry Limited Partnership (FNFLP) toward a major hardwood products development in southern Manitoba. A lead proponent was selected, and Manitoba negotiated a Commitment Agreement with the company. The Sustainable Forestry Unit assisted FNFLP in several areas throughout the year, including meeting with First Nations communities. Negotiation of a Commitment Agreement with the successful proponent continued through 2006.

Stewardship

To meet the intent of Principle # 2, the Department would need to ensure:

a) its plans, policies and decisions ensure the economy, the environment, human health and social well being are managed for the equal benefit of present and future generations; and
b) its decisions are balanced with tomorrow's effects.

- A new Tire Stewardship Regulation was released for public comment in March 2006. The Regulation, under *The Waste Reduction and Prevention (WRAP) Act* will shift Manitoba's product stewardship approach to a regulated steward responsibility model, requiring industry to develop a plan to manage all tires in Manitoba.

- The Department reviewed Tolko Manitoba's 2005/06 Annual Harvest and Renewal Plan. The timber volume approved for harvesting was 504,740 m^3 with an additional 176,730 m^3 approved as contingency blocks. The region reviewed Tolko's Annual Harvest and Renewal Plan and issued 100 work permits to the company. Staff also participated on Tolko's CSA Certification Committee and Forest Resource Advisory Committees.

- Regional staff continues to participate in the Manitoba Model Forest (MBMF) program which was created in 1992 through a partnership agreement with interested groups looking to support innovative sustainable forest management programs. The focus of the MBMF is to work towards a common understanding of ecosystem based process and sustainable development.

Shared Responsibility and Understanding

To meet the intent of Principle # 3, the Department would need to ensure:

a) it takes responsibility for sustaining the economy, the environment, human health and social well-being and be accountable for its decisions and actions in a spirit of partnership and open co-operation with all Manitobans;
b) its decisions and activities reflect Manitoba's shared common economic, physical and social environment;
c) it understands and respects differing economic and social views, values, traditions and aspirations in its decision making and activities; and
d) it considers and reflects in its decisions and activities the aspirations, needs and views of the people of the various geographical and ethnic groups in Manitoba, including aboriginal peoples to facilitate equitable management of Manitoba's common resources.

- The Sustainable Forestry Unit (SFU) continued to monitor the activities of the Northern Forest Diversification Centre (NFDC) as the centre worked towards a new business structure. Non-timber forest products development for northern communities is supported by the NFDC. The NFDC has a three-year federal-provincial grant to assist its restructuring. The SFU represents Manitoba on the NFDC's Board of Directors.

- Manitoba Conservation signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Swampy Cree Tribal Council (SCTC) committing timber resources to support economic opportunities for the SCTC through forestry developments. The agreement outlines Manitoba's intent to commit unallocated hardwood volumes to a project or projects that the First Nations with to pursue. The SCTC represents eight First Nations communities in northwest Manitoba.

- The Northeast Region continues to work with First Nations in assessing the potential economic and employment benefits associated with community-based forest management initiatives. The focus in 2005 was in the Pukatawagan (Mathias Colomb First Nation) and Island Lake (St. Theresa Point First Nation) areas.

Prevention

To meet the intent of Principle # 4, the Department would need to ensure:

a) its activities and decisions and legislation anticipate, and prevent or mitigate, significant adverse economic, environmental, human health and social effects, and
b) have particular careful regard to its decisions and actions whose impacts are not entirely certain but which, on reasonable and well-informed grounds, appear to pose serious threats to the economy, the environment, human health and social well being.

- Two additional Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collection days were held in Winnipeg to accommodate the increased demand for service to keep hazardous materials out of municipal landfills. The HHW program collected 559 tonnes of household hazardous wastes, such as pesticides and pharmaceuticals, up by 12% from 2004/05.

- Interlake Region continues to work with municipalities on solid waste management by working with local government to ensure closure of unacceptable waste disposal sites and developing proper sites or converting existing sites to waste transfer stations. Staff continues to work toward the closure of the last of the liquid waste pits in the region and to work with municipalities and other agencies to speed construction of engineered sewage lagoons or other treatment facilities to properly treat sewage wastes. Staff is also working with municipalities to ensure that existing sewage treatment facilities are upgraded when required or that new facilities are constructed.

- Public Health Inspectors in the Winnipeg District participated in several pandemic planning seminars, helping Manitoba Health and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority develop emergency response procedures in the event of an influenza pandemic.

- A new Wildlife Bovine Tuberculosis Manager was hired and positioned in Dauphin to work with regional staff to deliver the field implementation of a Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) eradication strategy. This strategy was developed by the TB Task group, comprised of Parks Canada, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives and Manitoba Conservation. This initiative included a barrier fencing program; 34 fences were installed using aboriginal contractors; expanded hunting seasons; enhanced "no baiting" regulations and increased sampling of elk and white-tailed deer in the Riding Mountain TB eradication zone. Wildlife staff worked closely with district Natural Resource Officers conducting aerial and ground surveillance for illegal baiting and feeding of wildlife in Game Hunting Area 23/23A around Riding Mountain National Park.

- The Emergency Response Team assists Police Forces with removal and disposal of chemicals found at clandestine drug operations / marijuana grow operations, and helps evaluate the extent of contamination at the site for remediation purposes. The Emergency Response Team has been actively involved in training and preparedness for Chemical/Biological/Radiological/Nuclear terrorism response in Manitoba.

Conservation and Enhancement

To meet the intent of Principle # 5, the Department would need to ensure:

a) its activities and decisions maintain the ecological processes, biological diversity and life-support systems of the environment;
b) that renewable natural resources are harvested on a sustainable yield basis;
c) that those persons who have been allocated provincial resources make wise and efficient use of them; and
d) its programs and activities enhance the long-term productive capability, quality and capacity of natural ecosystems.

- Contributing to Manitoba's protected areas, three ecological reserves were established in 2005/06: Brokenhead Wetland Ecological Reserve, Armit Meadows Ecological Reserve and Birch River Ecological Reserve.

- Manitoba committed to work with First Nations, Ontario and Canada on a UNESCO World Heritage site, 83,000 ha of boreal forest on the East Side of Lake Winnipeg.

- Woodland caribou monitoring and research continued throughout the Northwest Region to support the completion of regional action plans to conserve the species called for by federal *Species as Risk Act (SARA)*. The Region is well positioned to develop action plans based as a result of the extensive data collection over the past decade. The data collection has been supported by many partners including the federal government (Habitat Stewardship Program), Manitoba Hydro, Tolko Industries, University of Manitoba, University of Toronto, Parks Canada, Trent University, Norway House Cree Nation, Aboriginal and Northern Affairs, and the Northwest Region Woodland Caribou Advisory Committee.

- Oak Hammock Marsh Wildlife Management Area (WMA) continues to be one of Manitoba's premier wildlife viewing destinations with over 200,000 visitors on an annual basis. A cooperative infrastructure and maintenance program agreement involving Ducks Unlimited Canada as a partner has been implemented to upgrade and expand existing infrastructure and habitat.

- The Eastern Manitoba Woodland Caribou Advisory Committee produced a report with recommendations on managing the winter habitat of the Owl Lake Herd ("Landscape Management Strategy for the Owl Lake Woodland Caribou Herd; An Update of the Original 1995 Strategy"). Using the principles in this report, the committee developed two types of "caribou" forest harvest designs and implemented these in an experimental forest harvest area within the herd's winter management zone. Several data-gathering projects continued or were initiated to monitor and access the experimental harvest prescriptions, including capture and monitoring of

GPS and VHF radio equipped caribou, establishment of permanent vegetation sample plots and a multi species track survey.

- The Resource Analysis group continued to work on completing a new wood supply for Forest Management License Area #1. The Technical Advisory Committee, formed to guide the wood supply analysis, updated the existing forest inventory for depletion and renewal activities that occurred after 1996, determined the operable landbase, defined forest management practices and identified spatial and non-spatial constraints employed in the wood supply modelling. The new wood supply analysis for the FML accounts for recent landbase changes, such as the expanded riparian corridor along the Manigotagan River, Treaty Land Entitlement selections, heritage resource sites, proposed Protected Area(s) and the special habitat requirements for the Owl Lake caribou herd. The calculated wood supply reflects current forest management strategies and timber utilization practiced in this area, and a final report will be released early in 2006.

- Of the estimated 12,097 hectares of softwoods harvested in 2004-2005, 25 per cent (3051 ha) was site prepared in 2005-2006 for reforestation. The rest was left to regenerate naturally or will be planted or otherwise treated in the future. This is down from previous years, primarily due to a shift by the forest industry to plant more trees on un-prepared sites. Even though the area treated for reforestation decreased, the number of trees to be planted did not. Expanding harvest of poplar (about 33 per cent of harvested area over the past five years) increased the area left to regenerate naturally, as poplar regenerates readily from root suckering. About 42 hectares of harvested area that had not restocked sufficiently were retreated by planting.

- Conservation's Tee Improvement Program provides genetically improved seed source for reforestation and to ensure the conservation of the forest genetic resource. There are currently 14 seed orchards (62.9 hectares - over 175,000 trees) and 27 family tests (83.3 hectares – over 191,000 trees) across the province. Improved jack pine seed is available for the Southeast, Interlake and Saskatchewan River breeding zones. Improved white spruce seed is available for the Mountain and Saskatchewan River breeding zones. Improved black spruce seed is available for the Lake Winnipeg East, Saskatchewan River, Nelson River, Interlake and Southeast breeding zones. In 2005/06, approximately 44 per cent of all seedlings planted across the province originated from genetically improved seed.

Rehabilitation and Reclamation

To meet the intent of Principle # 6, the Department would need to ensure:

a) it actively endeavours to repair or have repaired damage to, or degradation of, the environment; and

b) that the Department builds into its future allocations of and plans for the use of resources the requirement to rehabilitate and reclaim areas and resources that may be damaged.

- Manitoba Conservation led the development of a draft National Recovery Strategy for the Endangered western prairie fringed orchid, and participated in the completion of a draft National Recovery Strategy for the Endangered small white lady's-slipper. Both strategies are due for posting on the SARA registry (www.sararegistry.gc.ca) in June 2006.

- Discussions were initiated between the Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection Branch and Western Region wildlife staff and Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Shilo regarding endangered species recovery planning for CFB Shilo and the surrounding area. An environmental assessment is being planned for CFB Shilo due to the change in field operations since the arrival of the 2nd Battalion of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry.

- The Environmental Youth Corps (EYC) provides Manitoba's young people with an opportunity to prepare for the environmental challenges of tomorrow by helping them gain valuable education

and experience today. Youth are encouraged to volunteer within their community in projects that help to improve, protect and rehabilitate Manitoba's environment.

7. Global Responsibility

To meet the intent of Principle # 7, the Department would need to ensure:
a) it thinks globally when acting locally, recognizing there is economic, ecological and social interdependence among provinces and nation; and
b) it works co-operatively, within Canada and internationally, to integrate economic, environmental, human health and social factors in decision making while developing comprehensive and equitable solutions to problems.

- The Pollution Prevention Branch is working in partnership with the Manitoba Ozone Protection Industry Association (MOPIA) to analyze current practices and options to enhance recovery of ozone depleting substances from white goods disposed in Manitoba.

- Work is continuing on the development of the web based internet map server in Manitoba to provide forest data for the National Forest Information System (NFIS). The NFIS server is being developed to provide an Internet Web-based system wherein the public can find and review databases on Canada's forests and environmental conditions. Information on forest management practices will include harvesting information, reforestation, forest fires, and related biophysical and environmental indicators. Canadian provinces are currently negotiating a governance strategy for the programs future operation that may include utilization of the NFIS program for hosting other Federal/Provincial geospatial data sets.

- The Department continued participation on the Canadian Geodetic Reference System Committee (CGRSC) of the Canadian Council on Geomatics. CGRSC is a federal-provincial working committee that is mandated to plan and coordinate the maintenance and improvement of the geodetic spatial reference system in Canada. The committee, amongst other activities, continued work on two major initiatives; i.e., the Canada-wide Differential GPS Service and Modernization of the Canadian Height Reference System.

Sustainable Development Guidelines

1. Efficient Uses of Resources

To meet the intent of Guidelines # 1, the Department would need to:
a) encourage and facilitate development and application and use of systems for proper resource pricing, demand management and resource allocation together with incentives to encourage efficient use of resources; and
b) employ full-cost accounting to provide better information for decision-makers.

- The Pollution Prevention Branch provided technical expertise, assistance in project management and $160,000 in grant funding to the Manitoba Municipal Efficiency Project (MMEP), a project to enable municipalities to use water and energy more efficiently. Other partners include the Association of Manitoba Municipalities and other provincial and federal government departments and agencies.

2. Public Participation

To meet the intent of Guideline # 2, the Department would need to:
a) use and establish forums which encourage and provide opportunity for consultation and meaningful participation in departmental decision making processes by Manitobans;
b) provide due process, prior notification and appropriate and timely redress for those adversely affected by departmental decisions and actions; and

c) strive to achieve consensus amongst citizens and the department with regard to decisions affecting them.

- Consultations were undertaken with Manitoba industry stakeholders and broad public consultations were held in June 2005 on proposed amendments to the *Ozone Depleting Substances Regulation*, M.R. 103/94. A Manitoba ODS Management Program website was developed and information posted for the consultation process.

- A formal public consultation process on regulating phosphorus was undertaken jointly with the Departments of Water Stewardship, Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade, and Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives during February and March, 2006.

- Consultations continued with First Nation communities in the area on the Fisher Bay Park Reserve.

3. Access to Information

To meet the intent of Guideline # 3, the Department would need to:

a) improve and refine economic, environmental, human health and social information related to natural resources and the environment; and
b) provide and promote the opportunity for equal and timely access to its information by all Manitobans.

- The Department developed and deployed a new Parks Reservation System (PRS) for online internet booking of campsites. The new system became operational in April, 2006. In addition, 12 campground offices had computers and satellite systems installed in order to provide local access in the campground offices to support customer check-ins and additional customer onsite bookings.

- The Manitoba Land Initiative (MLI) data warehouse is available online to the general public via the Intranet. This repository is being significantly enhanced with new data sets and new user interfaces. The MLI warehouse contains all government geospatial GIS data and related databases and meta-data, with interactive mapping tools. The data warehouse now has over 8,500 registered users. A new interactive map server was configured to provide seamless access of data for viewing and product downloading. A new web interface was also developed in conjunction with the Federal Government Geo-Connections to provide for a meta data search capability of Manitoba data through their web portal.

- The 2005 Provincial Sustainability Report was released June 30, 2005. The report is to provide Manitobans information on important sustainability issues and trends, looking at the inter-relationships between environmental conditions and social and economic factors.

4. Integrated Decision Making and Planning

To meet the intent of Guideline # 4, the Department would need to:

a) encourage, facilitate, establish and ensure its decision making and planning processes are efficient, timely, accountable and cross-sectoral; and

b) incorporate into its decision making and planning an inter-generational perspective of future needs and consequences.

- Draft Community-based Land Use Planning Guidelines were prepared to assist communities in land planning of their traditional territories. A workshop was held to present and discuss the Guidelines which involved community leadership, Elders and other community members, as well as people with experience in community land use planning. The purpose of the workshop was to help communities develop a more unified understanding about the community-based land planning process, its purpose and limitations, and lay the ground work for starting community land use plans in communities ready to do so.

5. Waste Minimization and Substitution

To meet the intent of Guideline # 5, the Department would need to:

a) encourage and promote, within and outside of the Department, the development and use of substitutes for scarce resources where such substitutes are both environmentally sound and economically viable; and

b) reduce, reuse, recycle and recover the products the Department uses in its daily operations and encourage, promote and facilitate the 4 Rs in society generally.

- The Waste Reduction and Pollution Prevention (WRAPP) Fund continues to be an integral program for supporting waste reduction and pollution prevention activities in Manitoba. This includes development of regional recycling networks, development of composting facilities by municipalities, on farm manure management and backyard composting.

6. Research and Innovation

To meet the intent of Guideline # 6, a Department would need to:

a) encourage and assist in the research, development, application and sharing of knowledge and technologies which further economic, environmental, human health and social well-being.

- The Sustainable Development Innovations Fund (SDIF) supports innovative projects, activities, research and developments that further the sustainability of Manitoba's environment, economy, human health and social well-being, and support sustainable economic growth. The SDIF encourages creation of partnerships towards improving environmental sustainability.

- The Manitoba Round Table for Sustainable Development Scholarship for 2005/06 was awarded to two Manitoba students. A sum of $4,000 was awarded to Paul Mutch of the University of Manitoba on his graduate research on tall grass prairie habitat restoration around the City of Winnipeg, and $1,000 was awarded to Sarah Morriss for her undergraduate work at the University of Winnipeg on Sustainable Development Guidelines and Principles.

- In the summer of 2005, University of Manitoba commenced a Dutch Elm Disease (DED) research project, in partnership with Manitoba Conservation. The objectives of the project are to find an environmentally friendlier replacement for the pesticide currently used to control the elm bark beetle and to investigate the potential benefits to the DED management program of the early removal of diseased elm trees.

- An Environment Act Licence was issued for the Pembina Hills Wind Farm. Pembina Hills is the second wind farm in Manitoba located near St. Leon on the Pembina Hills escarpment. Environment Act licence applications were also filed for the Killarney and Dacotah wind energy projects.

Sustainable Development Procurement Goals

1. Education, Training, and Awareness

To meet the intent of Goal #1, a department would need to ensure a culture that supports sustainable procurement practices exists within their department by:

a. increasing awareness about the benefits of Sustainable Development Procurement among departments, employees and vendors; and
b. expanding the knowledge and skills of procurement practitioners and end users.

- For 2005/06, the Department continued to focus on its procurement education and training needs and supported the development of procurement tools and checklists for staff use. The Department continued to adjust manuals and procedures to reflect sustainable development procurement guidelines, such as the Department's Contract Manual. The departmental staff involved in procurement must now ensure sustainability is noted with respect to all purchase requisitions submitted to Procurement Services Branch (TGS).

2. Pollution Prevention and Human Health Protection

To meet the intent of Goal #2, a department would need to protect the health and environment of Manitobans from possible adverse effects of their operations and activities, and provide a safe and healthy working environment by:

a. reducing their purchase and use of toxic substances; and
b. reducing solid waste sent to landfill from Government of Manitoba owned or leased facilities occupied by the department.

- For 2005/06, the Department continued amendments to janitorial contracts in order to reduce toxic substance use and replace with environmentally friendly products only. All offices are required to utilize recycled paper and remanufactured toner cartridges. Duplex copier equipment is required where volumes warrant.

3. Reduction of Fossil Fuel Emissions

To meet the intent of Goal #3, a department would need to reduce fossil fuel emissions of their operations and activities by:

a. reducing both consumption and emissions of vehicle fuels; and
b. as a substitute for regular fuels, increase their use of ethanol-blended fuels and alternative energy sources.

- For 2005/06, the Department continued to utilize ethanol fuel and alternative fuel vehicles in its fleet toward targeted objectives.

4. Resource Conservation

To meet the intent of Goal #4, a department would need to reduce their use and consumption of resources in a sustainable and environmentally preferable manner by:

a. reduce the total annual consumption of utilities including natural gas, electricity, propane, fuel oil and water in all leased or owned Government of Manitoba buildings and premises occupied by the department; and
b within the context of reduced resource use, increase the proportion of environmentally preferable products and environmentally preferable services used by the department.

- For 2005/06, the department continued SD procurement clauses for all contracts and tenders.

5. Community Economic Development

To meet the intent of Goal #5, a department would need to ensure that their procurement practices foster and sustain community economic development by:

a. increasing the participation of Aboriginal peoples and suppliers in providing for the department's goods and services needs;
b. assisting in the development and growth of local environmental industries and markets for environmentally preferable products and services; and
c. increasing the participation of small businesses, community based businesses and Co-ops in the department's procurement opportunities.

- For 2005/06, the department continued existing efforts toward enhancing Aboriginal Procurement and local procurement in support of community based economic development within the context of government's public tendering policies.

REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE SUMMARIES

Table RE.1

Reconciliation Statement

DETAILS	2005/06 ESTIMATES
Printed Estimates of Expenditure 2005/06	$111,184.7
Enabling Appropriation re: Internal Reform Workforce Adjustment	Nil
2005/06 ESTIMATES	$111,184.7

Table RE.2

Revenue Summary By Source

For the year ended March 31, 2006 with comparative figures for the previous year

Actual 2004-05	Actual 2005-06	Increase (Decrease)	Source	Actual 2005-06	Estimate 2005-06	Variance	Ex N
			OTHER REVENUE:				
199.9	79.1	(120.8)	Clean Environment Commission Cost Recovery	79.1	393.2	(314.1)	
341.4	589.4	248.0	Environment Fees and Sundry	589.4	543.2	46.2	
7,990.2	8,577.2	587.0	Forestry Fees and Sundry	8,577.2	8,628.0	(50.8)	
2,552.0	1,751.0	(801.0)	Land Information Sales and Fees	1,751.0	12,285.3	(10,534.3)	
4,026.6	3,941.7	(84.9)	Licence Sales by Vendors	3,941.7	3,947.3	(5.6)	
10,194.0	9,631.0	(563.0)	Parks Fees	9,631.0	11,374.9	(1,743.9)	
2,392.1	3,127.9	735.8	Regional Operations Fees and Cost Recovery	3,127.9	1,101.7	2,026.2	
96.5	95.1	(1.4)	Wildlife Sundry	95.1	224.0	(128.9)	
222.1	422.3	200.2	Sundry	422.3	303.3	119.0	
28,014.8	28,214.7	199.9	Subtotal	28,214.7	38,800.9	(10,586.2)	
			GOVERNMENT OF CANADA:				
200.2	151.0	(49.2)	(a) Migratory Waterfowl Crop Damage Prevention Agreement	151.0	151.0	0.0	
200.2	151.0	(49.2)	Subtotal	151.0	151.0	0.0	
28,215.0	28,365.7	150.7	Total	28,365.7	38,951.9	(10,586.2)	
4.8	34.2	29.4	Sale of Government Assets	34.2	0.0	34.2	

Explanation Number:

1. Revenue was lower as Clean Environment Commission hearings were not held during 2005/06 after the conclusion o the Floodway Expansion hearings in the first quarter.
2. Revenue was lower due to lower Cottage Lot Initiative revenue. Revenue was lower primarily due to th implementation of new public sector accounting standards in 2005/06 which impact the accounting for both cottage lo inventory and timing of revenue recognition for cottage lot sales.
3. Revenue was lower due to lower Cottage Lot Initiative revenue. 2006/07 Estimate was based on the assumption tha 100% of the land leased lots would be sold however actual uptake has been 50%. 2005/06 lots will be offered in th 2006/07 cottage lot initiative draws.
4. Increased revenue is due to revenue generated by Manitoba's deployment in other provinces for fire suppression unde the Mutual Aid Response System (MARS) Agreement.
5. Revenue was lower due to lower than anticipated activity.

Table RE.3
Expenditure Summary

For fiscal year ended March 31, 2006 with comparative figures for the previous year.

Estimate 2005/06	Appropriation	Actual 2005/06	Actual 2004/05	Increase (Decrease)	Explan. Number
	12-1 Administration and Finance				
29.4	(a) Minister's Salary	29.7	28.8	.9	
	(b) Executive Support				
548.5	Salaries and Employee Benefits	545.5	538.2	7.3	
197.3	Other Expenditures	121.5	136.1	(14.6)	
	(c) Corporate Services				
1,182.4	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,089.6	1,012.2	77.4	
1,147.5	Other Expenditures	1,271.8	1,190.2	81.6	
	(d) Financial Services				
1,298.4	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,205.7	1,313.5	(107.8)	
383.3	Other Expenditures	369.5	336.1	33.4	
	(e) Human Resource Services				
1,055.3	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,055.6	1,049.3	6.3	
107.2	Other Expenditures	96.5	112.7	(16.2)	
	(f) Information Technology Services				
1,066.2	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,059.7	1,143.4	(83.7)	
94.3	Other Expenditures	88.6	104.7	(16.1)	
	(g) Clean Environment Commission				
245.3	Salaries and Employee Benefits	235.1	278.2	(43.1)	
340.2	Other Expenditures	135.8	219.5	(83.7)	
7,695.3	**Total 12-1**	**7,304.6**	**7,462.9**	**(158.3)**	
	12-2 Conservation Support Services				
	(a) Computer Graphics				
518.7	Salaries and Employee Benefits	476.2	453.2	23.0	
26.0	Other Expenditures	25.0	26.7	(1.7)	
	(b) Survey Services				
1,485.0	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,306.1	1,366.3	(60.2)	
445.9	Other Expenditures	389.8	451.9	(62.1)	
(1,570.7)	Less: Recoveries from other appropriations	(1,572.1)	(1,707.0)	134.9	
	(c) Distribution Centre				
317.4	Salaries and Employee Benefits	341.1	336.9	4.2	
325.6	Other Expenditures	311.8	317.8	(6.0)	
(50.0)	Less: Recoverable from other appropriations	(29.1)	(43.1)	14.0	
1,497.9	**Total 12-2**	**1,248.8**	**1,202.7**	**46.1**	
	12-3 Regional Operations				
	(a) Headquarters Operations				
1,937.4	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,870.6	1,937.7	(67.1)	
1,065.6	Other Expenditures	1,018.4	939.4	79.0	
490.6	Problem Wildlife Control	466.9	346.7	120.2	
	(b) Northwest Region				
2,067.2	Salaries and Employee Benefits	1,972.1	2,041.8	(69.7)	
764.1	Other Expenditures	768.5	718.7	49.8	

Estimate 2005/06	Appropriation	Actual 2005/06	Actual 2004/05	Increase (Decrease)	Explan. Number
	(c) Northeast Region				
2,528.4	Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,463.0	2,396.2	66.8	
944.8	Other Expenditures	987.7	925.7	62.0	
	(d) Interlake Region				
3,150.1	Salaries and Employee Benefits	3,281.8	3,017.1	264.7	
1,102.5	Other Expenditures	1,079.0	1,087.8	(8.8)	
	(e) Eastern Region				
3,145.5	Salaries and Employee Benefits	3,276.0	3,094.0	182.0	
769.2	Other Expenditures	814.0	818.8	(4.8)	
	(f) Western Region				
4,758.4	Salaries and Employee Benefits	4,704.8	4,593.3	111.5	
1,416.6	Other Expenditures	1,446.2	1,427.6	18.6	
	(g) Red River Region				
3,374.8	Salaries and Employee Benefits	3,285.5	3,196.4	89.1	
873.7	Other Expenditures	932.7	872.0	60.7	
	(h) Fire Program				
5,503.1	Salaries and Employee Benefits	5,699.3	5,360.5	338.8	
8,806.1	Other Expenditures	8,691.6	8,253.6	438.0	
	(i) Livestock Operations Support				
353.3	Salaries and Employee Benefits	301.1	219.6	81.5	
661.2	Other Expenditures	351.3	322.5	28.8	
	(j) Environment Operations				
619.4	Salaries and Employee Benefits	622.4	650.0	(27.6)	
60.0	Other Expenditures	75.3	56.5	18.8	
44,392.0	**Total 12-3**	**44,108.2**	**42,275.9**	**1,832.3**	
	12-4 Conservation Programs				
	(a) Divisional Administration				
187.0	Salaries and Employee Benefits	161.9	158.7	3.2	
389.0	Other Expenditures	369.1	321.2	47.9	
576.0	**Total 12-4A**	**531.0**	**479.9**	**51.1**	
	(b) Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Initiative				
225.0	Other Expenditures	208.0	221.1	(13.1)	
225.0	**Total 12-4B**	**208.0**	**221.1**	**(13.1)**	
	(c) Parks and Natural Areas				
	(1) Administration				
415.5	Salaries and Employee Benefits	463.5	523.2	(59.7)	
349.1	Other Expenditures	320.3	368.9	(48.6)	
258.7	Grant Assistance	258.7	191.2	67.5	
	(2) Planning and Development				
668.0	Salaries and Employee Benefits	741.7	713.7	28.0	
115.5	Other Expenditures	106.9	103.0	3.9	
	(3) Park Districts				
272.1	Salaries and Employee Benefits	275.6	248.1	27.5	
48.4	Other Expenditures	48.3	36.7	11.6	
	(4) Park Operations and Maintenance				
11,682.5	Salaries and Employee Benefits	12,104.5	11,399.4	705.1	
5,157.9	Other Expenditures	4,989.7	4,246.0	743.7	1
(461.7)	Less: Recoverable from Rural Economic Development Initiatives	(455.9)	0.0	(455.9)	1

Estimate 2005/06	Appropriation	Actual 2005/06	Actual 2004/05	Increase (Decrease)	Explan. Number
	(5) Support Services				
430.3	Salaries and Employee Benefits	466.2	502.7	(36.5)	
326.6	Other Expenditures	309.3	260.1	49.2	
	(6) Protected Areas				
206.5	Salaries and Employee Benefits	198.2	219.8	(21.6)	
115.0	Other Expenditures	55.4	75.5	(20.1)	
100.0	Grant Assistance	100.0	0.0	100.0	
19,684.4	**Total 12-4C**	**19,982.4**	**18,888.3**	**1,094.1**	
	(d) Air Quality Management				
279.3	Salaries and Employee Benefits	298.4	286.5	11.9	
67.4	Other Expenditures	69.4	63.5	5.9	
2.8	Grant Assistance	0.0	1.5	(1.5)	
349.5	**Total 12-4D**	**367.8**	**351.5**	**16.3**	
	(e) Forestry				
	(1) Administration				
337.7	Salaries and Employee Benefits	378.0	426.5	(48.5)	
322.8	Other Expenditures	332.5	405.7	(73.2)	
23.4	Grant Assistance	23.4	23.4	0	
	(2) Forest Inventory and Resource Analysis				
923.1	Salaries and Employee Benefits	925.8	991.7	(65.9)	
764.4	Other Expenditures	599.6	426.8	172.8	
	(3) Forest Health and Renewal				
1,645.0	Salaries and Employee Benefits	2,425.3	2,362.3	63.0	
3,890.1	Other Expenditures	3,209.9	2,928.9	281.0	
(1,324.5)	Less: Recoverable from Urban and Rural Economic Development Initiatives	(1,266.9)	(1,237.4)	(29.5)	
	(4) Forest Management and Development				
576.3	Salaries and Employee Benefits	513.4	518.5	(5.1)	
667.6	Other Expenditures	322.1	76.4	245.7	2
	(5) Sustainable Forestry Unit				
296.1	Salaries and Employee Benefits	270.7	264.3	6.4	
200.0	Other Expenditures	173.8	186.2	(12.4)	
1,355.3	(6) Forest Regeneration Stock	1,220.8	1,184.0	36.8	
9,677.3	**Total 12-4E**	**9,128.4**	**8,557.3**	**571.1**	
	(f) Habitat Enhancement Fund				
50.0	Other Expenditures	50.0	50.0	0.0	
50.0	**Total 12-4F**	**50.0**	**50.0**	**0.0**	
	(g) Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection				
	(1) Administration				
474.8	Salaries and Employee Benefits	448.5	521.8	(73.3)	
367.9	Other Expenditures	353.2	357.8	(4.6)	
207.0	Grant Assistance	207.0	207.0	0.0	
	(2) Game, Fur, and Problem Wildlife Management				
655.3	Salaries and Employee Benefits	764.7	634.9	129.8	
436.6	Other Expenditures	438.5	263.8	174.7	
89.9	Grant Assistance	89.9	89.9	0.0	

Estimate 2005/06	Appropriation	Actual 2005/06	Actual 2004/05	Increase (Decrease)	Explan. Number
	(3) Habitat Management and Ecosystem Monitoring				
658.2	Salaries and Employee Benefits	531.9	536.5	(4.6)	
72.7	Other Expenditures	72.5	68.4	4.1	
645.0	Grant Assistance	645.0	645.0	0.0	
	(4) Biodiversity Conservation				
312.8	Salaries and Employee Benefits	317.9	316.9	1.0	
72.0	Other Expenditures	70.3	60.7	9.6	
350.4	(5) Canada-Manitoba Waterfowl Damage Prevention Agreement	330.3	397.0	(66.7)	
4,342.5	**Total 12-4G**	**4,269.7**	**4,099.7**	**170.0**	
250.0	(h) Special Conservation and Endangered Species Fund	**93.2**	**148.7**	**(55.5)**	
250.0	**Total 12-4H**	**93.5**	**148.7**	**(55.5)**	
	(i) Pollution Prevention				
574.0	Salaries and Employee Benefits	565.2	571.9	(6.7)	
778.7	Other Expenditures	853.6	793.4	60.2	
1,352.7	**Total 12-4I**	**1,418.8**	**1,365.3**	**53.5**	
	(j) Lands				
	(1) Crown Lands Operations				
793.0	Salaries and Employee Benefits	711.0	719.0	(8.0)	
1632.4	Other Expenditures	1,644.3	1,546.8	97.5	
	(2) Crown Lands Registry				
174.8	Salaries and Employee Benefits	170.5	119.9	50.6	
116.6	Other Expenditures	120.6	121.9	(1.3)	
	(3) Remote Sensing				
593.9	Salaries and Employee Benefits	648.4	600.4	48.0	
308.2	Other Expenditures	245.7	217.9	27.8	
(23.7)	Less: Recoverable from other appropriations	0.0	0.0	0.0	
	(4) Land Mapping Services				
581.3	Salaries and Employee Benefits	623.6	577.6	46.0	
65.5	Other Expenditures	59.7	64.4	(4.7)	
4,242.0	**Total 12-4J**	**4,223.8**	**3,967.9**	**255.9**	
40,749.4	**Total 12-4**	**40,273.1**	**38,129.7**	**2,143.4**	
	12-5 Environmental Stewardship				
	(a) Divisional Administration				
172.8	Salaries and Employee Benefits	161.7	158.2	3.5	
66.5	Other Expenditures	36.8	39.6	(2.8)	
250.0	Northern Initiatives	250.0	85.9	164.1	
122.5	Grant Assistance	116.5	117.2	(.7)	
	(b) Sustainable Resource Management				
1,014.6	Salaries and Employee Benefits	861.6	903.5	(41.9)	
748.7	Other Expenditures	762.2	743.7	18.5	
10.2	Grants Assistance	10.2	10.2	0.0	
	(c) Environmental Assessment and Licensing				
1,011.2	Salaries and Employee Benefits	924.0	1,065.1	(141.1)	
264.5	Other Expenditures	201.7	173.7	28.0	

Estimate 2005/06	Appropriation	Actual 2005/06	Actual 2004/05	Increase (Decrease)	Explan. Number
	(d) Aboriginal Relations				
262.2	Salaries and Employee Benefits	225.7	256.0	(30.3)	
48.8	Other Expenditures	34.7	41.6	(6.9)	
3,972.0	**Total 12-5**	**3,585.1**	**3,594.7**	**(9.6)**	
1,145.9	**12-6 International Institute for Sustainable Development**	1,145.9	1,031.3	114.6	
1,145.9	**Total 12-6**	**1,145.9**	**1,031.3**	**114.6**	
	12-7 Minor Capital Projects				
305.9	(a) Equipment	281.2	340.8	(59.6)	
120.0	(b) Critical Heritage Marshes	119.7	118.0	1.7	
2,369.3	(c) Park Facilities	2,240.3	2,438.8	(198.5)	
2,747.4	(d) Cottaging and Camping Initiatives	979.6	1,879.3	(899.7)	3
5,542.6	**Total 12-7**	**3,620.8**	**4,776.9**	**(1,156.1)**	
	12-8 Costs Related to Capital Assets				
	(a) Desktop Services				
130.6	(1) Amortization Expense	130.5	128.6	1.9	
232.4	(2) Enterprise Software Licenses	232.4	232.4	0.0	
	(b) General Assets				
1,195.3	(1) Amortization Expense	1,141.3	1,022.5	118.8	
356.7	(2) Interest Expense	397.2	347.6	49.6	
	(c) Infrastructure Assets				
1,981.9	(1) Amortization Expense	1,865.0	1,834.7	30.3	
2,292.7	(2) Interest Expense	1,674.6	1,675.7	(1.1)	
6,189.6	**Total 12-8**	**5,441.0**	**5,241.5**	**199.5**	
111,184.7	**TOTAL EXPENDITURES**	**106,727.5**	**103,715.6**	**3,011.9**	
CAPITAL INVESTMENT:					
2,242.7	B.4 Capital Investment -General Assets	**2,221.2**	**1,019.8**	**1,201.4**	4
	B.13 Capital Investment-Infrastructure Assets				
2,725.1	(a) Parks Infrastructure Projects	2,054.6	2,144.4	(89.8)	
3,626.0	(b) Cottaging and Camping Initiative	1,269.9		1,269.9	5
6,351.1	**Total B.13 Capital Investment-Infrastructure Assets**	**3,324.5**	**2,144.4**	**1,180.1**	
8,593.8	**TOTAL CAPITAL INVESTMENT**	**5,545.7**	**3,164.2**	**2,381.5**	

Expenditure Summary Explanations
For fiscal year ended March 31, 2006 with comparative figures for the previous year

1. The Department's increase of $455.9 in 2005/06 expenditures was due to Beach Safety Program cost recoveries recorded in a separate sub-appropriation 12-4c-4c Recoverable from Rural Economic Initiatives. In 2004/05 Beach Safety Program recoveries were recorded as a reduction to 12-4c-4b Other Expenditures. The balance of the increase of $287.8 is due to operating cost increases as a result of increased park operations and maintenance projects.
2. The Department's increase of $245.7 in 2005/06 expenditures was mainly due to Stumpage System projects including wood measurement, timber tracking, and timber pricing.
3. The Department's decrease of ($899.7) in 2005/06 expenditures was mainly due to lot development delays as a result of weather, survey delays, town/municipality zoning delays, and aboriginal and archeological impacts.
4. The Department's increase of $1,201.4 in 2005/06 B.4 Capital Investment - General Assets expenditures was mainly due to the implementation of the Park's Reservation System.
5. The Department's increase of $1,269.9 in 2005/06 B. 13(b) Capital Investment-Infrastructure Assets-Lot Development was due to increased lot development. In 2004/05, cottage lot development was delayed due to delays in road construction projects and lot development approvals.

Table RE.4

Five Year Expenditure and Staffing Summary by Appropriation

For year ending March 31, 2002 – March 31, 2006

	ACTUALS/*ADJUSTED ESTIMATES OF EXPENDITURE									
	2001/2002		2002/2003		2003/2004		2004/2005		2005/2006	
	FTEs	$(000's)	FTEs	$(000's)	FTEs	$(000's)	FTEs	$(000's)	FTEs	$(000's)
Administration and Finance	87.83	6,415.9	87.93	6,611.8	91.33	7,600.2	90.33	7,462.9	92.33	7,304.6
Conservation Support Services	51.00	1,358.4	50.00	1,361.5	48.00	1,631.4	45.00	1,202.7	44.00	1,248.8
Regional Operations	479.86	41,082.1	498.86	41,333.4	485.86	41,759.6	471.36	42,275.9	462.86	44,108.2
Conservation Programs	429.90	37,472.5	423.65	36,945.9	416.65	38,648.7	403.65	38,129.7	399.06	40,273.1
Environmental Stewardship	42.00	3,359.7	39.00	3,175.1	38.00	3,438.3	35.00	3,594.7	36.00	3,585.1
International Institute for Sustainable Development		1,060.0		1,034.9		1,104.4		1,031.3		1,145.9
Minor Capital Projects		4,124.8		4,109.3		2,877.9		4,776.9		3,620.8
Costs Related to Capital Assets		6,845.6		6,545.6		5,435.1		5,241.5		5,441.0
Total Appropriations	**1,090.59**	**101,719.0**	**1,099.44**	**101,117.5**	**1,079.84**	**102,495.6**	**1,045.34**	**103,715.6**	**1,034.25**	**106,727.5**

*Adjusted figures reflect historical date on a comparable basis in those appropriations affected by re-organization, during the years under review.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES – DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

The 2005-06 reporting year is the first year that a standardized Performance Measurement section appears in Departmental Annual Reports. This section is another step in our process to provide Manitobans with a more complete picture of the activities of government and their impacts on the province. That process was begun in 2005 with the release of the document, *Reporting to Manitobans on Performance, 2005 Discussion Document,* which can be found at www.gov.mb.ca/finance/performance.

Performance indicators in departmental Annual Reports are intended to provide Manitobans with meaningful and useful information about government's activities, complementary to financial results. Some measures incorporate data collected by the provincial government, while others show data that are collected by external agencies. A range of existing, new and proposed measures may be reported in subsequent years, as the process continues to evolve.

Your comments on performance measures are valuable to us. You can send comments or questions to mbperformance@gov.mb.ca.

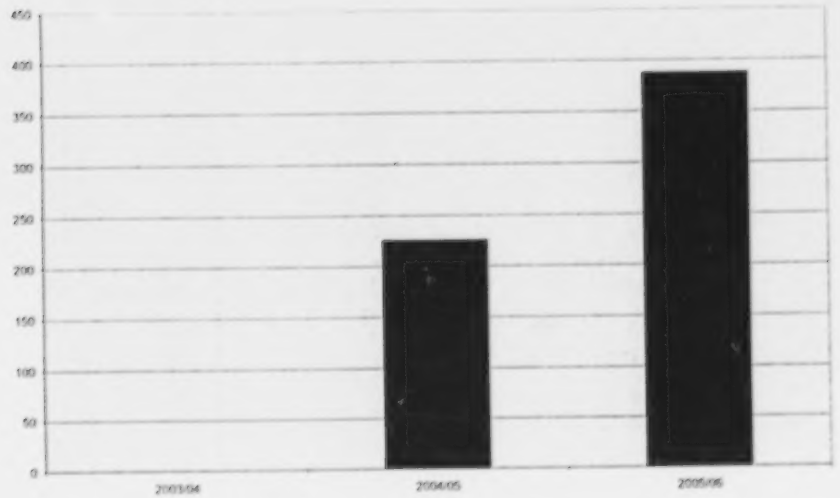
What are we measuring and how?	Why is it important to measure this?	What is the most recent available value for this indicator?	What is the trend over time for this indicator?	***Comments/ recent actions/report links***
Our progress towards expanding our network of protected areas, by measuring Hectares of protected land in Manitoba	Protected areas are important because they help ensure conservation of biodiversity, maintain natural cycles, provide pristine areas and preserve land for Aboriginal people to maintain their traditional activities. Measuring the growth in protected areas will tell us how well we are meeting our goal for protected lands that represent the biodiversity in each of Manitoba's natural regions.	Currently, 5.4 million hectares or 8.4% of Manitoba is protected. This includes two national parks, 21ecological reserves, all or parts of 42 provincial parks and interim protected park reserves, all or parts of 43 wildlife management areas, two areas designated under The Forest Act, and various parcels of private land owned by a conservation agency.	Since 1990, when the Protected Areas Initiative began, the area of protected lands has increased from 350,000 hectares to 5,469,358 hectares in 2005.	For further information on Manitoba's Protected Areas Initiative, please see pages 81 to 83 of the report.
The change in availability of wilderness-experience recreation opportunities for Manitobans by measuring number of improved campsites made available in the year	It is important to measure the expansion of available wilderness recreation opportunities, represented here by new campsites and new cottage lots, because the ability to enjoy wilderness	Since 2004/05, there were 387 improved campsites made available to Manitobans. Since 2004/05, there were 629 new cottage lots made available to	The Province has made significant commitments with respect to increasing camping and cottaging opportunities for Manitobans. The trend has demonstrated this commitment though	For further information on recreational opportunities for Manitobans, please see pages 79 to 81 of the report

What are we measuring and how?	Why is it important to measure this?	What is the most recent available value for this indicator?	What is the trend over time for this indicator?	***Comments/ recent actions/report links***
number of new cottage lots made available in the year	recreation is important to Manitobans. For many, the relative affordability of cottage properties is a major reason why Manitoba remains attractive as a place to live. In addition, Manitobans benefit from enhanced economic development opportunities in areas with increasing cottage and camping visitors, including tourist visits. For Manitobans, increased wilderness recreation also contributes to quality of life and healthy living, as they participate in hiking, cycling, paddling and swimming that usually go along with spending time in these areas.	Manitobans, as part of the provincial commitment for 1,000 new cottage lots.	increased sites and lots in recent years.	
Safety and security in provincial parks by measuring Provincial Parks Acts violations recorded in provincial parks, as a percentage of camping nights. (Excludes violations related to parking or park passes.)	Users of provincial parks have an expectation that there will be a safe and secure environment. It is important to maintain such an environment so that provincial parks can be used and enjoyed by all. Provincial Parks Act violations as a percent of camping nights is a measure that reflects the safety and security threats overall in parks as a	There were 480 total violations recorded in 2005/06, representing 0.23% of 210,000 camping nights.	Ranging from a high of 0.30% to 0.23% over the past 5 years, the trend shows that a large number of camping nights are incident-free; however, this measure does not indicate the severity of each event. The Department will be reporting on levels of severity and customer satisfaction in future.	For further information on safety and security in parks, please see page 35 of the report.

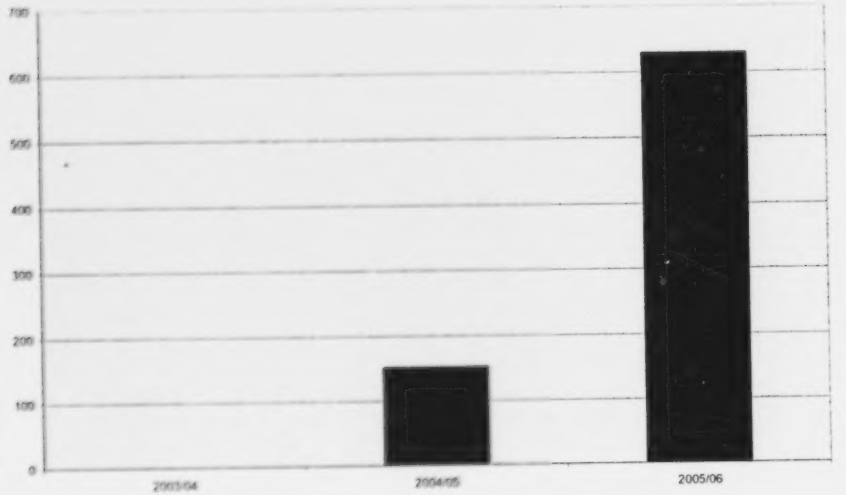
What are we measuring and how?	Why is it important to measure this?	What is the most recent available value for this indicator?	What is the trend over time for this indicator?	***Comments/ recent actions/report links***
	percent of indirectly comparative activity in campgrounds.			
How well people and wildlife are co-existing in the province, by measuring the number of "problem wildlife" incidents, by type of animal	A focus on problem wildlife management is important because problem wildlife can impact on life safety, private property and public infrastructure.	In 2005/06, there were a total of 3,510 problem wildlife reports. They were as follows: Black Bear - 2,372 Polar Bear - 132 Beaver - 269 Big Game - 312 Wolf - 150 Migratory Birds - 275	The trend of major wildlife categories has been fairly stable over the past five years and the measure is a reflection of level of disturbance resulting from people and wildlife sharing our outdoors, that changes based on environmental or weather conditions and the Department's and public's reaction to incidents.	In May, 2006 the Bear Smart initiative was launched, and includes: roadside signs, brochures and fact sheets, an information campaign and free community workshops to help to safeguard humans, minimize property, crop and livestock damage, and maintain a healthy bear population. For further information on the Problem Wildlife Program, please see pages 105 and 106 of the report.
Security of communities and of forestry-related economic development in high priority forested areas, by measuring hectares of forest burned in "Red Zone" areas as a percentage of total hectares burned in the province (or as per cent of Red Zone itself – confirm) "Red Zone" is highest priority forest zone.	Protection of people, property and the surrounding forested areas helps contribute to viable communities in these areas that are primarily in the North.	In 2005/06, 0.35% of the highest priority forest protection zone (Red Zone) was burned.	There is no clear directional trend for this measure, because risk varies widely from year to year. For data over five years, see Table x below. The risk of forest fire varies from year to year, primarily due to weather conditions. Although the primary original causes of forest fires include human activities and lightning strikes, the severity and impact of forest fires is mainly dependent on how wet or dry are the	For further information on the Fire Program, please see pages 60 to 65 of the report.

What are we measuring and how?	Why is it important to measure this?	What is the most recent available value for this indicator?	What is the trend over time for this indicator?	***Comments/ recent actions/report links***
			conditions at the time. The Department uses an Initial Attack Preparedness process to prioritize early strikes on the most vulnerable and high priority areas, in order to limit the impact as much as possible.	

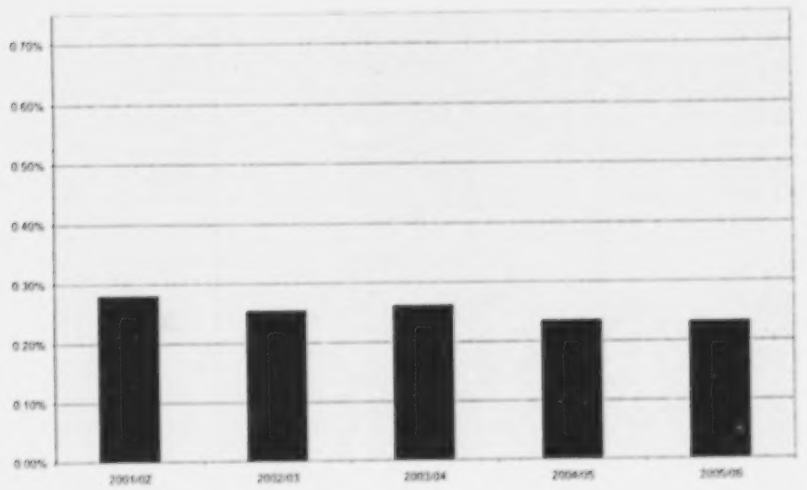
Improved Campsites



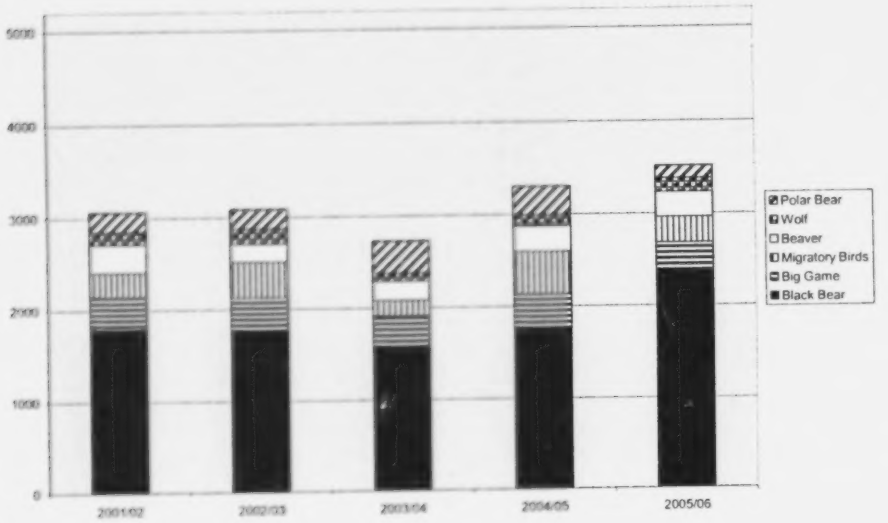
Newly Developed Cottage Lots

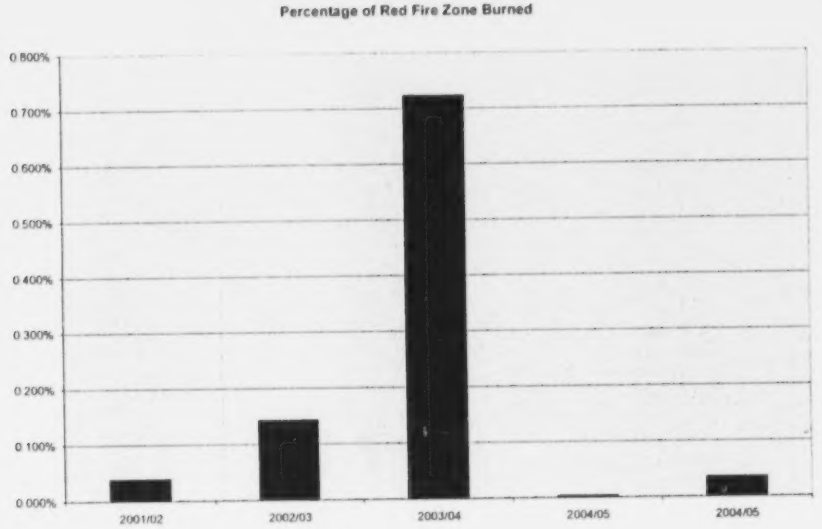


Violations as % of Camping Nights



Problem Wildlife by Major Category




Percentage of Red Fire Zone Burned
0.800%
0.700%
0.600%
0.500%
0.400%
0.300%
0.200%
0.100%
0.000%
2001/02
2002/03
2003/04
2004/05
2004/05

CONSERVATION MANITOBA
TABLEAU D'INFORMATION SUR LE RENDEMENT

L'exercice 2005-2006 est la première année où les rapports annuels du ministère comprennent une section d'information sur le rendement standardisée. Il s'agit d'une autre étape du processus visant à ce que les Manitobains aient un meilleur aperçu des activités du gouvernement et des répercussions de celles-ci sur la province. Ce processus a été amorcé en 2005 avec la publication du document *Rapport aux Manitobains sur le rendement — Document de travail 2005*, qui se trouve sur Internet à : www.gov.mb.ca/finance/mbperformance/perf02.fr.html.

Les indicateurs de rendement dans les rapports annuels des ministères ont pour objectif de fournir aux Manitobains des renseignements valables et utiles sur les activités du gouvernement, en tant que complément des résultats financiers. Certains renseignements incorporent des données recueillies par le gouvernement provincial, alors que d'autres montrent des données rassemblées par des organismes externes. À mesure que le processus évolue, un éventail de mesures actuelles, nouvelles ou proposées pourrait être inclus dans le rapport dans les années à venir.

Nous accordons beaucoup d'importance à vos commentaires sur la mesure de la performance. Vous pouvez nous les envoyer, ainsi que toute question, à mbperformance@gov.mb.ca.

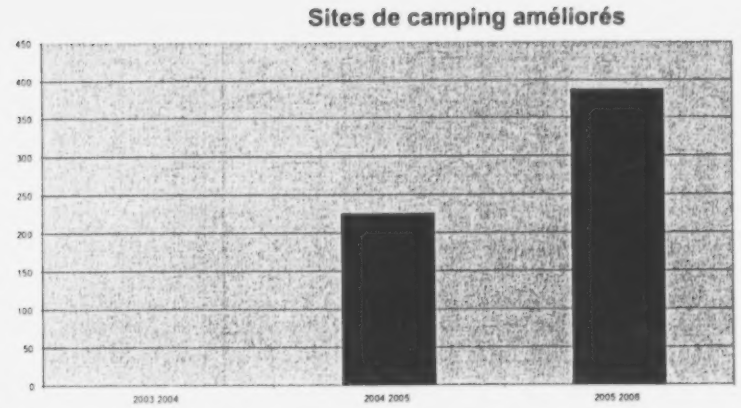
Que mesure-t-on et comment? (A)	***Pourquoi est-il important de mesurer cela? (B)***	***Quelle est la valeur connue la plus récente pour cet indicateur? (C)***	***Quelle a été la tendance pour cet indicateur au cours des ans? (D)***	***Commentaires/mesures prises récemment/liens avec le rapport (E)***
Nos progrès dans l'agrandissement de notre réseau de zones protégées, en mesurant le nombre d'hectares de terres protégées au Manitoba.	Les zones protégées sont importantes parce qu'elles aident à assurer la conservation de la biodiversité, maintenir les cycles naturels, conserver des régions vierges et préserver des terres pour que les Autochtones puissent poursuivre leurs activités traditionnelles. La mesure de l'augmentation des zones protégées nous dira si nous atteignons nos objectifs sur les terres protégées qui représentent la biodiversité dans chacune des régions naturelles du Manitoba.	Actuellement, 5,4 millions d'hectares (8,4 % de la superficie de la province) sont protégés. Ces zones protégées comprennent deux parcs nationaux, 21 réserves écologiques, la totalité ou des parties de 42 parcs provinciaux et de réserves aux fins de création de parcs protégés temporairement, la totalité ou des parties de 43 zones de gestion de la faune, deux zones désignées en vertu de la *Loi sur les forêts* et diverses parcelles de terres privées appartenant à un organisme de conservation.	Au début de l'Initiative des zones protégées, en 1990, la superficie des terres protégées était de 350 000 hectares. En 2005, elle était de 5 469 358 hectares.	Pour plus d'information sur l'Initiative des zones protégées du Manitoba, veuillez vous référer aux pages 81 et 83 du rapport.

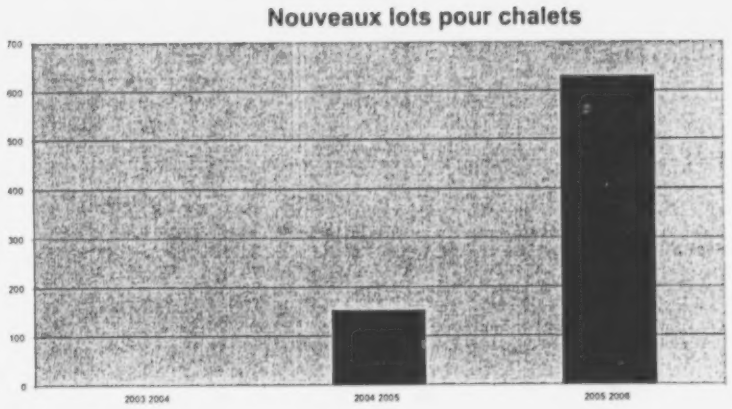
Que mesure-t-on et comment? (A)	*Pourquoi est-il important de mesurer cela? (B)*	*Quelle est la valeur connue la plus récente pour cet indicateur? (C)*	*Quelle a été la tendance pour cet indicateur au cours des ans? (D)*	*Commentaires/mesures prises récemment/liens avec le rapport (E)*
Les changements quant aux possibilités de loisirs dans un milieu sauvage pour la population manitobaine, en mesurant : ▪ le nombre de sites de camping offerts dans l'année; ▪ le nombre de nouveaux lots pour chalets offerts dans l'année.	Il convient de mesurer l'augmentation des possibilités de loisirs en milieu sauvage, représentée ici par de nouveaux sites de camping et de nouveaux lots pour chalets, parce que la capacité de pratiquer des loisirs en milieu sauvage est importante pour les Manitobains et Manitobaines. Pour beaucoup, l'abordabilité relative des terrains pour chalets est une raison majeure pour laquelle le Manitoba demeure un lieu de résidence attrayant. De plus, la population manitobaine bénéficie d'une augmentation des possibilités de développement économique dans les régions où s'accroît le nombre de visites aux chalets et aux terrains de camping, y compris les visites touristiques. Pour les Manitobains et Manitobaines, l'augmentation des loisirs en milieu sauvage contribue aussi à la qualité de vie et à la vie saine puisqu'ils pratiquent la randonnée, le cyclisme,	En 2004-2005, 387 sites de camping améliorés ont été offerts aux Manitobains et Manitobaines. Depuis 2004-2005, 629 nouveaux lots pour chalets ont été offerts à la population manitobaine dans le cadre de l'engagement de la Province à la création de 1 000 nouveaux lots pour chalets.	La Province s'est fermement engagée à favoriser le développement de lotissements pour chalets et d'emplacements de camping. La tendance à la hausse de l'offre de lots et de sites au cours des dernières années reflète cet engagement.	Pour plus d'information sur les possibilités de loisirs des Manitobains et Manitobaines, veuillez vous référer aux pages 79 à 81 du rapport.

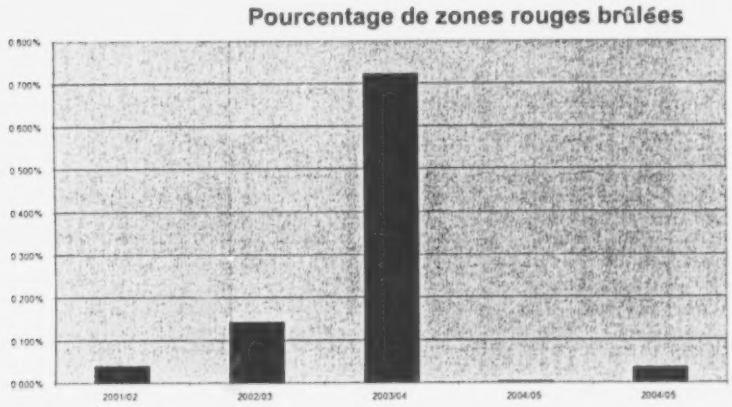
Que mesure-t-on et comment? (A)	*Pourquoi est-il important de mesurer cela? (B)*	*Quelle est la valeur connue la plus récente pour cet indicateur? (C)*	*Quelle a été la tendance pour cet indicateur au cours des ans? (D)*	*Commentaires/mesures prises récemment/liens avec le rapport (E)*
	le canot et la natation, des activités qui se pratiquent habituellement dans les milieux sauvages.			
La sécurité et la sûreté dans les parcs provinciaux, en mesurant le nombre d'infractions à la *Loi sur les parcs provinciaux* enregistrées en tant que pourcentage du nombre de nuitées de camping. (Sont exclues les infractions relatives au stationnement ou aux permis d'accès aux parcs.)	Les utilisateurs des parcs provinciaux s'attendent à un environnement sécuritaire et sûr. Il est important de maintenir la sécurité des parcs afin que toute la population puisse les utiliser et en profiter. Le nombre d'infractions à la *Loi sur les parcs provinciaux* en tant que pourcentage du nombre de nuitées donne une indication d'ensemble des menaces à la sécurité dans les parcs.	En 2005-2006, on a enregistré un total de 480 infractions, ce qui représente 0,23 % de 210 000 nuitées.	Le nombre d'infractions a varié de 0,30 %, un sommet, à 0,23 % au cours des 5 dernières années, ce qui indique qu'un grand nombre de nuitées se passent sans incident. Cependant, cette mesure n'indique pas la gravité de chaque incident. Le ministère rendra compte des niveaux de gravité des incidents et de satisfaction des clients dans l'avenir.	Pour plus d'information sur la sûreté et la sécurité dans les parcs, veuillez vous référer à la page 35 du rapport.
La coexistence entre les humains et la faune dans la province, en mesurant le nombre d'incidents impliquant un animal sauvage posant problème, en fonction du type d'animal.	Porter son attention sur la gestion des animaux sauvages posant problème est important parce que des incidents impliquant ces animaux peuvent toucher la sécurité des personnes, des propriétés privées et des installations publiques.	En 2005-2006, on a rapporté un total de 3 510 incidents impliquant un animal sauvage posant problème. Ils sont répartis comme suit : • ours noirs – 2 372; • ours polaires – 132; • castors – 269; • gros gibier – 312; • loups – 150; • oiseaux migrateurs – 275.	Le nombre d'incidents impliquant les principales catégories d'animaux est demeuré relativement stable au cours des cinq dernières années. La mesure reflète le niveau de perturbation lié à la coexistence des êtres humains et des animaux dans la nature, qui varie selon les conditions environnementales ou météorologiques, ainsi que la réaction du ministère aux incidents signalés.	En mai 2006 a eu lieu le lancement de l'initiative Gare aux ours. Celle-ci comprend : des panneaux routiers, des brochures, des feuilles de renseignements, une campagne d'information et des ateliers communautaires gratuits en vue de protéger les humains, de minimiser les dommages aux propriétés, aux récoltes et au bétail, et de maintenir une population d'ours en santé. Pour plus d'information sur le programme de gestion des animaux posant problème, veuillez vous référer aux pages 105 et 106 du rapport.

Que mesure-t-on et comment? (A)	*Pourquoi est-il important de mesurer cela? (B)*	*Quelle est la valeur connue la plus récente pour cet indicateur? (C)*	*Quelle a été la tendance pour cet indicateur au cours des ans? (D)*	*Commentaires/mesures prises récemment/liens avec le rapport (E)*
La sécurité des communautés et la continuation du développement économique lié à la foresterie dans les régions forestières à haute priorité, en mesurant le nombre d'hectares de forêt brûlés dans les régions « zones rouges » en tant que pourcentage de la zone totale. Les « zone rouges » sont les zones forestières ayant la plus haute priorité.	La protection des personnes, des propriétés et des régions forestières environnantes contribue à la viabilité des collectivités de ces régions, qui sont principalement situées dans le Nord.	En 2005-2006, 0,35% de la superficie de la zone forestière ayant la plus haute priorité de protection (zone rouge) a été brûlé.	Il n'existe pas de tendance indiquant clairement la direction de cette mesure parce que le risque varie largement d'une année à l'autre. Pour consulter les données sur cinq ans, référez-vous page 191. Le risque de feux de forêt varie d'année en année, principalement en raison des conditions climatiques. Même si les causes principales des feux de forêt comprennent les activités humaines et la foudre, leur gravité et leurs conséquences dépendent principalement des conditions du moment (sèches ou humides). Le ministère utilise un processus de préparation des mesures initiales pour prioriser les attaques précoces dans les régions les plus vulnérables et ayant la plus haute priorité, afin de limiter le plus possible les conséquences des feux de forêts.	Pour plus d'information sur le Programme de prévention des incendies, veuillez vous référer aux pages 60 à 65 du rapport.

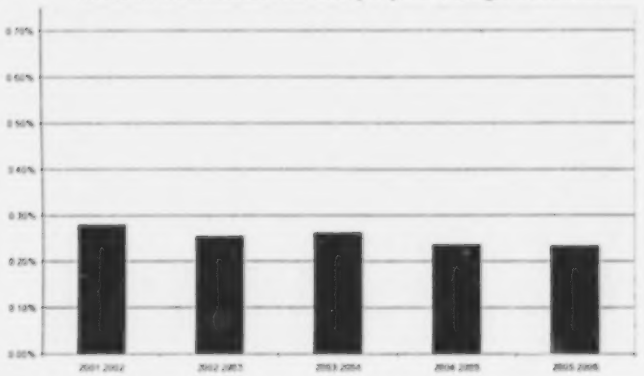
Conservation : les tableaux ci-dessous sont donnés à titre indicatif et seront mis à jour de façon à inclure 2005-2006.


Sites de camping améliorés
450
400
350
300
250
200
150
100
50
0
2003 2004
2004 2005
2005 2006

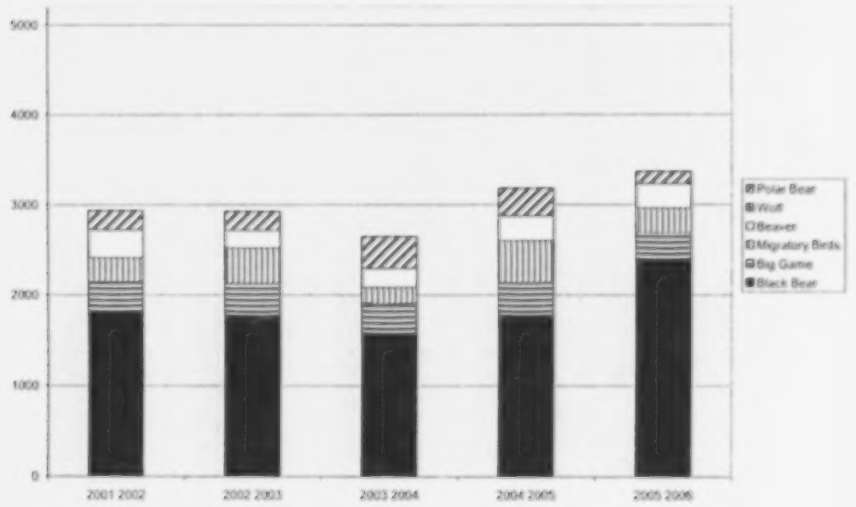

Nouveaux lots pour chalets
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
2003 2004
2004 2005
2005 2006


Pourcentage de zones rouges brûlées
0.800%
0.700%
0.600%
0.500%
0.400%
0.300%
0.200%
0.100%
0.000%
2001/02
2002/03
2003/04
2004/05
2004/05

Nombre d'infractions en tant que pourcentage du nombre



Animaux sauvages posant problème selon les catégories principales



PUBLICATIONS

Corporate Services

Manitoba Conservation: Career Guide

Operations

Manitoba firearm accidents report : hunting and non-hunting

Forestry

Forintek Canada Corporation - Helping Manitoba's Forest Products Industry Add Value and Increase Productivity

Geographic Names

Holm, G., Buchner, A., eds. **A Place of Honour: Manitoba's War Dead Commemorated in Its Geography**. (also available in French)

Parks and Natural Areas

Beach safety (bilingual)
Beach safety for groups (bilingual)
Birds Hill, Cedar Bog self-guiding trail
Birds Hill, Nimowin self-guiding trail
Birds Hill, Pine Ridge self-guiding trail
Camp Morton Provincial Park interpretive map
The camper's guide (English and French versions)
Canadian Heritage Rivers System - Towards a management plan for the Hayes River - Workshop materials - May 2003
Chitek Lake Park Reserve – Phase 1 public consultation brochure
Clearwater Lake Provincial Park interpretive map
Duck Mountain Provincial Park - Draft management plan
Fall camping in Manitoba
Family vacation cabins (bilingual)
Group use areas (bilingual)
Hecla/Grindstone, Grassy Narrows Marsh
Hecla/Grindstone, Hecla Village self-guiding trail
Junior naturalist and park explorer booklets
Manitoba 2004 Provincial Parks Guide
Parks Reservation Service
The petroforms of Manitoba
Pinawa Dam, Old Pinawa self-guiding trail
Regular/boundary changes for Provincial Parks – Summary information
River Road, Kennedy House
Spruce Woods, Spirit Sands self-guiding trail, Devils Punch Bowl hiking trail

Towards a management plan for the Hayes River - Summary of workshop comments
Turtle Mountain, Wildlife self-guiding trail
Volunteer Campground Host Program
Whiteshell, Alf Hole Goose Sanctuary

Sustainable Resource Management

Crown Land Classification Committee. Interdepartmental Operational Crown Land Plans 2004

Wildlife and Ecosystem Protection

Black Bear Encounters, brochure
Black Bear Encounters, handout (summary of the brochure)
Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) Management, brochure
Newman, K. Grassland Bird Monitoring at Manitoba Mixed-grass Prairie Grazing Demonstration Project Sites
Manitoba 2005 Hunting Guide
Miller, A. Manitoba's 2003 Piping Plover Survey and Productivity Summary
Jones, G. & V. Henderson. Metal Concentrations in Soils and Produce from Gardens in Flin Flon Manitoba, 2002. Manitoba Conservation Report No. 2006-01
Kowalchuk, M. Mixed-grass Prairie Inventory for Manitoba - update 2005
Foster, C., C. Hamel & E. Reimer. Occurrences of rare and uncommon calcareous wetland plants surveyed by the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre in 2003. MS04-02
Hamel, C., C. Foster & E. Reimer. Rare Plant Surveys & Stewardship in the Rural Municipality of Stuartburn, including new and updated occurrences resulting from surveys conducted in 2003 by the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre. MS04-01
Trapping Guide 2005/06
Manitoba Conservation. 2006. Culver's Root - Species At Risk Fact Sheet. 2 pp.
Manitoba Conservation. 2006. Riddell's Goldenrod - Species At Risk Fact Sheet. 2 pp.
Environment Canada. 2006. Recovery Strategy for western prairie fringed-orchid (Platanthera praeclara) in Canada [Proposed]. Species at Risk Act Recovery Strategy Series. Environment Canada, Ottawa. 22 pp.
Foster, C. and C. Hamel. 2006. Rare Species Surveys of the Manitoba Conservation Data Centre, 2005. MS Report 06-01. Manitoba Conservation Data Centre, Winnipeg, Manitoba 43 pp.
Duncan, J. (technical editor) – 2005. Biodiversity Perspectives – Manitoba Edition. Keewatin Publications (English and French versions). 48 pp.
Duncan, J. (technical editor) - Berger, C. 2005. Wild Guide: Owls. Stackpole Books. Mechanicsburg, PA. 131 pp.
Duncan, J.R. 2005. Winged Ambassador Passes On -- Lady Gray'l Dies on 13 October 2005 at over 21 years old
Published in:
- Manitoba Conservation Press Release. 17 October 2005.
- The Wing Beat. The Wildlife Haven Newsletter. p. 1. Vol. 19, Issue 2, Winter 2005. 8 pp.

Duncan, J.R. 2005. Breeding Long-eared Owls Invade Southern Manitoba in 2005.
Published in:
- The Manitoba Woodlot Newsletter. p. 5. Issue Number 57, December 2005/January 2006. 14 pp.
- The Manitoba Chapter Wildlife Society Newsletter. pp. 5-6. October 2005. 8 pp.
- Wingspan. Raptor Research Foundation Newsletter. pp. 5-6. September 2005. 12 pp.
- The Wing Beat. The Wildlife Haven Newsletter. p. 8. Vol. 18, Issue 2, Summer 2005. 8 pp.
- Manitoba Lodges & Outfitters Association Newsletter. p. 8. Annual Newsletter 2005. 28 pp.

Duncan, J.R. 2005. Manitoba's Nocturnal Owl Survey Annual Report – 2004. 4 pp.
Duncan, J.R. 2005. Manitoba Dragonfly Survey: Citizen's Monitoring Guide. 43 pp.

LEGISLATION

The Contaminated Sites Remediation Act, C.C.S.M. chapter C 205
The Crown Lands Act, C.C.S.M. chapter C 340
[except sections 7.2(2) to 7.6 and sections 6, 7, 10, 12(1), 14, 16, 17, 18, 21, 23 and 24 to 28 both inclusive, insofar as they relate to the administration of Crown Lands which may be designated by the Minister of Conservation as agricultural Crown Lands, and the Agricultural Crown Lands Grazing and Hay Permits Regulation (Manitoba Regulation 288/88) and Agricultural Crown Land Leases Regulation (Manitoba Regulation 168/2001)]
The Dangerous Goods Handling and Transportation Act, C.C.S.M. chapter D 12
The Dutch Elm Disease Act, C.C.S.M. chapter D 107
The Ecological Reserves Act, C.C.S.M. chapter E 5
The Endangered Species Act, C.C.S.M. chapter E 111
The Environment Act, C.C.S.M. chapter E 125
The Forest Act, C.C.S.M. chapter F 150
The Manitoba Hazardous Waste Management Corporation Act, C.C.S.M. chapter H 15
The International Peace Garden Act, C.C.S.M. chapter I 70
The Manitoba Natural Resources Transfer Act, C.C.S.M. chapter N 30
[except as it relates to water and fisheries]
The Manitoba Natural Resources Transfer Act Amendment Act, C.C.S.M. chapter N 60
The Manitoba Natural Resources Transfer Act Amendment Act, 1963, C.C.S.M. chapter N 70
The Ozone Depleting Substances Act, C.C.S.M. chapter O 80
The Provincial Parks Act, C.C.S.M. chapter P 20
The Plants Pests and Diseases Act, C.C.S.M. chapter P 90
[that portion of clause 16(c) that pertains to arborists and clause 16(i)]
The Polar Bear Protection Act, C.C.S.M chapter P 94
The High-Level Radioactive Waste Act, C.C.S.M. chapter R 10
The Resource Tourism Operators Act, C.C.S.M. chapter R 119.5
The Surveys Act, C.C.S.M. chapter S 240
[Part II]
The Sustainable Development Act, C.C.S.M. chapter S 270
[except the Manitoba Climate Change Action Fund of the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund]
The Waste Reduction and Prevention Act, C.C.S.M. chapter W 40
The Wildfires Act, C.C.S.M. chapter W 128
The Wildlife Act, C.C.S.M. chapter W 130
[except that portion of clause 89(e) that applies to compensation for damage to crops caused by wildlife as it pertains to big game and migratory waterfowl]
The Wild Rice Act, C.C.S.M. chapter W 140

As per Schedule "D", Order in Council No. 361/2005